

Florida

The Bobwhite Quail
Ultra Light Tackle

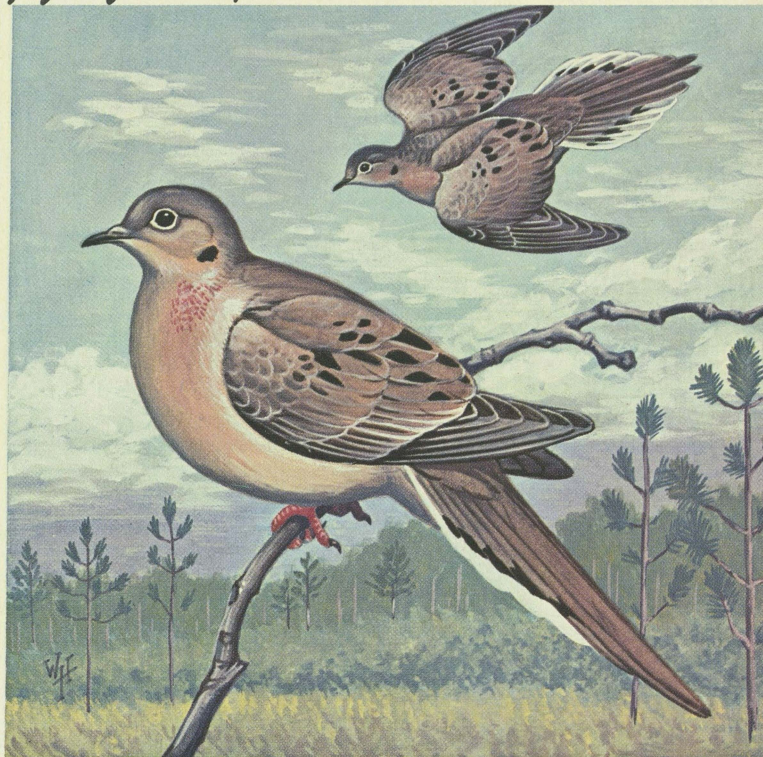
Fishing • Hunting
• Conservation •
Outdoor Recreation

WILDLIFE

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Florida Wildlife Scrapbook

MOURNING DOVE

Zenaidura macroura

The Mourning Dove, abundant in numbers and swift of wing, is one of the South's great game species. Nesting in a variety of sites including the shade trees in many Florida towns, it is common throughout the year. It is during the fall, however, when great numbers of birds funnel down from the Mississippi flyway and east that some spectacular concentrations are noted. Average length of the Mourning Dove is 12 inches; weight four ounces. Main food is seed of wild and cultivated plants; grasses, crotons, ragweed, corn, millet, chuffas, peanuts and sorghum. Favored habitats include pine uplands, cultivated lands and beaches. A migratory game bird, hunting regulations are set through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The usual brood numbers only two, but a pair of Mourning Doves may nest several times during the year in the deep south, and young birds hatched in the spring may themselves bring off a brood of young before the short winter season.

COTTONTAIL RABBIT

Sylvilagus floridanus

Probably the most popular game animal in America, the Cottontail is found throughout Florida. Dwelling areas include grass and brushy thickets of pastures, fields, groves and woodlands. The Cottontail is vegetarian living mainly on grasses, clovers, berries and tender shoots, sprouts and barks of various other plants. When it comes to increasing the population, the rabbit is extremely prolific. Females often raise a family after nine months of age, and may produce three litters of young in a year. Four to six young form the average litter. Classified as a game animal, the rabbit can be hunted the entire year by licensed hunters, and there is no established bag limits. In the past Florida hunters ignored the rabbit because of interest in other game, but today, with that happy little dog, the Beagle, rabbit hunting is gaining in popularity. Length generally between 11 and 17 inches; weight two to four pounds.

CLAPPER RAIL

Rallus longirostris

Known as the "salt water marsh hen," the Clapper Rail is the most widely hunted of Florida's marsh hens. Although the Clapper closely resembles the fresh water marsh dwelling King Rail, it is somewhat smaller in size with an average length of 12 to 14 inches, and wingspread of from 18 to 20 inches. There are three subspecies of Clapper Rails in the state. They resemble one another so closely that for all practical purposes they are indistinguishable except to the ornithologist. Diet of the rail consists for the most part animal material, the percentage running as high as 96, much of which is composed of mollusks, fiddlers, shrimp, small crabs and insects. Despite its food habits, the marsh hen when properly prepared is a highly regarded table bird. A migratory game bird, hunting regulations for rails (marsh hens) are set by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and generally starts during early September, according to anticipated high tides, a favored time for flushing rails by boat-poling through the salt water marshes. Another hunting style, especially along the Gulf coast, is to wade and flush during low tides, in shallow marsh waters.

BLACK BEAR

Ursus americanus

Distributed throughout most of North America, the Black Bear is the largest game animal found in Florida. Weighing to as much as 600 pounds, it stands 2 to 3½ feet tall at the shoulder, and measures from 5 to 6½ feet long, nose to tail. Despite its size, the bear is skillful at keeping out of sight and is seldom seen, even in areas where they are considered numerous. The bear is a plantigrade mammal, meaning it walks flat-footed. Track of its hind foot resembles the human footprint. Adult bear tracks measure about 7 inches long. The Bear has five toes but often only 4 show in tracks. Bears are most often found in river swamplands, scrub oak areas, cypress swamplands, large hammocks and pine flatlands. Bears are omnivorous, meaning they eat both animal and vegetable food. Principal animal foods are insects of all kinds, reptiles, fish, rodents, armadillos and other small animals, and occasionally wild hogs. Principal vegetable foods are acorn and palmetto mast, berries and fruits. Cubs are born in Florida sometime in January or February. Two form the average litter. At birth, cubs weigh only 6 to 10 ounces, about 1/200th of the mother's weight.

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Dedicated to the
Conservation, Restoration, and Protection of our Game and Fish

★

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CONSERVATION SCENE

Progress reports on improved outdoor recreation facilities in Florida

FLORIDA'S FRESH WATER fishermen are already beginning to reap benefits from the Fresh Water Fishing Improvement Act of 1963 and may expect more and better fishing as time passes and fishing improvement programs expand, according to A. D. Aldrich, director, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

The Fishing Improvement Act of 1963 provides for an increase of one dollar on each resident fishing license. This dollar is set aside to be used for improvement of Florida's fresh water fishing.

In reporting on the progress of the first six months of the fishing improvement program the Commission has approved 23 fish management areas in twelve counties with 53,821 acres of water now under intensive management to produce maximum fishing. Another 47 areas are presently being considered and under various stages of management. Ten public boat ramps and access sites were completed during the past six months and over fifty miles of boat trails have been cut through inaccessible grass and vegetation.

Established fish management areas are as follows: Polk County, Lake Cooper, Lake Julianna, Lake Mattie, Starr Lake, V-C Christina Recreation Area and Saddle Creek Recreation Area; Pasco County, Lake Jessimine;

Hillsborough County, Pleasant Grove Area; Pinellas County, Lake Tarpon and Lake Seminole; Alachua County, Orange Lake, Lake Lochloosa and Lake Newnan; Dixie County, Governors Hill Lake; Walton County, Juniper Bay Lake; Santa Rosa County, Bear Lake; Broward County, Tigertail Pits; Sumter County, Lake Panasoffkee. Approved but not official at this time are Blue Cypress Lake in Indian River and Lake Lowery, Perch Lake, Blue Lake and Lake Magnolia in the Camp Blanding area of Clay County.

New Wildlife Sanctuary

THROUGH AN ARRANGEMENT initiated by the Lake Region Chapter of the Florida Audubon Society, 200 acres of land in an area known as North Hanley Lake has been leased from Citrus Properties, Inc., of Lake Alfred. The new sanctuary, to be known as Hanley Groves Wildlife Sanctuary, is on the border of Sumter and Lake Counties, and contains a marsh area attractive to ducks, gallinules, coots, and various wading birds. It also includes a lake-harboring species of mammals particularly in need of protection.

Hanley Groves will be posted and supervised by the Lake Region Audubon Society and will

be used as a study and research area in cooperation with the biology department of Southern College at Lakeland. Because of interference with and possible danger from, normal citrus operations, the public is not authorized to enter this sanctuary. This is the eighth wildlife sanctuary of the Florida Audubon Society administered by the Lake Region Chapter. The seven others are on active, or abandoned, phosphate mining lands. Dr. Margaret Gilbert of the Southern College faculty is chairman of the Sanctuary Committee of the Chapter. She also serves on the Sanctuary Committee for the Florida Audubon Society.

Outdoor Recreation Sites

LOCATIONS FOR THREE new public recreation sites in Martin County and several in Okeechobee County were pinpointed in West Palm Beach at the first official meeting of the new tri-county recreation committee.

The group, with members from Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie Counties, was organized by W. R. Scott of Stuart, member of the Governing Board of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District. Its purpose: to advise the FCD on public recreation matters in connection

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THE COVER

This month's cover is another special set of identification panels featuring game birds and animals popular with Florida hunters. Species information appears on the reverse side of each panel, and may be cut out into individual sections.

From Paintings By Wallace Hughes

Florida Tagged Fish Derby

FISHING IN FLORIDA will carry the added lure of cash awards of from \$25 to \$10,000 again in 1964.

The Jos. Schlitz Brewing Company announced today that it will sponsor its \$500,000 Florida Fishing Derby for the fourth consecutive year. As in previous years the unique and popular statewide event will be built around some 10,000 tagged fish, both fresh and salt water, which will offer anglers opportunity for cash catches and added fishing fun and which will give the state important research benefits.

The Derby again will run for four months in each of four geographical zones in the state in 1964, opening February 1 in southeast and southwest Florida and winding up in north Florida on August 31. There will be no major changes from the 1963 event. The derby again will be open to Florida residents and tourists alike, with no "entrance" requirements except that they follow the state's fishing regulations.

In the 1963 derby, anglers came up with 1,895 of the tagged fish and received \$58,175 from the Jos. Schlitz Brewing Company. Total cash awards since the first derby in 1961 have been in excess of \$200,000.

As in previous years, the derby will be conducted in cooperation with the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and the Florida State Board of Conservation (salt water fish). These two agencies will tag the 10,000-odd fish, with all costs defrayed by Schlitz. The species of fish to be tagged and the waters in which they are released are selected by the two state agencies to best serve their research purposes.

Each of the tags are numbered
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Conservation "Indians"

By ERNEST SWIFT

National Wildlife Federation

TODAY RECREATION IS THE MOST resplendent rose on the thorny brush of conservation, even though many present-day recreational programs are considerably off-center with true resource management fundamentals. But right now recreation is top-dog, and so new bureaus have been created, bigger budgets allocated, endless and overlapping planning committees, both voluntary and statutory, have sprung to arms, and there is a constant lather of recreation meetings, training schools, workshops ad infinitum.

The voices of many new prophets are now echoing from the mountain tops with sermons of salvation. Many of these new and untried voices represent new jobs and fancy salaries, and to justify their existence there is need for them to throw their weight around and wear the mantle of profundity.

But this new crop of Chiefs have had little association with the poor Indians who, lo these many years, have been carrying on the unromantic field work and daily chores. Some Chiefs hardly know the Indians exist, although these peasants are supposed to execute any and all of the grandiose recreation plans now forthcoming.

I learned a long time ago that anything of value to be accomplished for conservation must be in the field and on the land, and that planning sessions are not an end in themselves but only an imperfect means to an end. Otherwise they are a waste of time and money.

It has become apparent to me that the education of some of the Chiefs I have listened to has been sadly neglected. They have never fought a forest fire, run a compass line, manned a tower or planted a tree. They have never frozen their hands or their bottoms spawning fish, nor taken a turn at stream improvement, nor developed a watershed, never lain out all night to catch a deer shiner, beaver trapper or spring duck hunter, never looked down the muzzle of a gun while attempting to uphold the sovereignty of their state or the Federal government, never felt the acrimony of a defense attorney or the indifference of a jury, and never, day in and day out, weathered the ignorance of public opinion.

During all this high and mighty planning, propaganda and oratory, these doers of deeds—these plain, hard-working public employees of the hinterlands and rural communities who have dedicated their life to a cause because they believed in it—for the time being at least are being forgotten and neglected. Not only are they forgotten and neglected, but their years of individual and collective experience is not wanted.

Suddenly they fail to grasp the "Big Picture." Their practical experience has stunted their growth and imagination. They are guilty of being interested only in resources and protecting them from public onslaught. They lack the sympathy and vision necessary to wet-nurse people en masse, many of whom are
(Continued on page 28)

FISHING

Fishing Boats

Fishermen who think boat traffic
helps fishing are kidding themselves

By CHARLES WATERMAN

ALTHOUGH IT SHOULD BE spoken in hushed tones, there are certain times when a careful fisherman can use a boat not usually considered safe for normal use.

I'm going to report on such a rig this month and I hope the crusaders for outboard safety will be tolerant of me when I explain that this boat is for specialized use and not for entertainment of a family picnic.

The manufacturers of both the boat and motor to be mentioned will cringe with horror when they see this piece, will disclaim any association with me and may stop sending me Christmas cards. Like an acetylene torch, this outfit is a useful tool but not to be fooled with.

The boat is a 10-foot aluminum pram made by the Orlando Clipper people. It has a 43-inch beam. I have used it for several years with great success for back country fishing and hunting, as a piggyback craft on a larger boat and as a car-topper. It slides easily into a station wagon or into a capacious auto trunk and is a *little heavier than most aluminum prams*. Keep that last phrase in mind.

Until recently, I had been using it with a 3-horse motor with which it is highly satisfactory. With a single passenger of around 100 pounds, it will plane. With me alone it gets right along but won't climb up on top. With two persons aboard, it is slow but safe and I've caught a lot of fish I'd never have found without it.

The other day, I sneaked out to a river with it, slid it into the water and put on a life jacket. Then I furtively took a new 9½-horsepower Johnson motor out of the old wagon and clamped it on the stern. This little Johnson is a new design that has had a lot of publicity, is extremely compact, light for its power and built to stay out back of the boat instead of crowding inside.

Nevertheless, let's face the fact it is twice the power the boat was built to handle. If you simply



climbed on the back seat alone, cranked her up and poured on the coal I have no doubt you would get pretty wet and might have the whole rig on top of you.

But I had a long extension handle that fit on the steering arm. I didn't sit on the back seat; I sat on the floor about amidships. I took off with caution and soon found she would get on top and plane at 12 or 15 miles an hour. No good for Sunday driver antics but a neat, light fishing outfit that was now fast as well. I set the 6-gallon gasoline tank in the bow to help keep the weight right.

I put a passenger aboard and she would still plane and go fast enough.

This extra power opened a whole new world of fishing for the little pram. Up to distances of several miles on sheltered waters, there will not be no need for piggyback arrangements.

Being fairly heavy the boat seems to take the bigger motor without danger of coming apart. It would make much better time with a little wider bottom but I assume the builders were careful to keep it small enough to slide into compact station wagons.

This is not the first time I've deliberately overpowered a fishing boat knowing I was not going to make fast turns, go through heavy seas or jump wakes. I once had a 10-horse motor on a little round-bottomed dinghy to the voluble horror of some of my associates. With an extension handle, I never even had a near accident.

Now anything more I say will be used against me. Do I recommend such an outfit? Yes and no. Yes for a fisherman or hunter who knows what he is doing and has a lot of caution in his system. No for people who haven't spent lots of time in boats and can't see what they're fooling with.

Now FOR A LITTLE ill-natured grumbling about

Overpowered for general use, this little pram is highly efficient as a back country hunting and fishing boat if handled with care. The motor is a 9½-horsepower Johnson of new, compact design.



boat wakes and "scientific" reports on their effect on fish.

A news release, taken from a scientific investigation, stated that "Outboard motors do not muddy waters!" It goes on to say that since this scientific report we don't have to worry about boats hurting fishing.

Such a statement probably needs no comment but I'll make one just the same.

Under certain conditions, heavy outboard traffic in certain fishing areas can roil the water so badly you can't see your lure, so badly that fishing comes to a standstill and so badly that it's Tuesday before you'll have a chance after the week-end traffic.

I suspect that the tests which caused the article



This is the kind of place a miniature boat shines. It's a mangrove swamp and the fish is a snook. With a fast motor, a little pram (hidden here by branches) has its usefulness doubled.

concluded that outboards do not permanently roil waters and do not kill fish and that is true but the conclusions drawn by the free-wheeling copy writer gave some wrong ideas.

Now the joy-rider has just as much right on the water as I have. I'm just trying to keep the facts straight.

Wakes can not only hurt some kinds of fishing. They can ruin it entirely.

I WENT SHORELINE fishing yesterday on the St. Johns river for the first time in three months. My buddy was using surface lures while I rowed the boat.

He was catching small bass regularly, had one good one and was picking up a bluegill now and then with his spinning outfit when we sighted an inboard cruiser of about 27 feet coming downstream. It was plowing, not planing, and it was pulling a big swell.

"This water is at exactly the wrong depth for wakes," my buddy said. "After that boat passes we are through for from one to two hours."

I eyed the rolling wake apprehensively but thought he was being a little pessimistic. I generally figure it takes quite a lot of traffic to stop shoreline fishing completely.

He was right though. The wake roiled up a streak of brown mud along the shore. The streak extended a good ten feet into the slow-moving river and it covered all of the area where we had been getting our strikes. We tried for another hour and then gave up because we could see the boat coming back.

This was an inboard, but plowing outboards do the same thing on a smaller scale.

Wakes ruin shoreline fishing.

Let me say again that joy riders have just as much right on the rivers and lakes as I have. This

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MUZZLE FLASHES

Gun Ownership

Proposed curbs on guns can
seriously affect training
valuable to national defense

By EDMUND McLAURIN

IF YOU ENJOY SHOOTING as a sport, or have inherited a love of guns for their artistic qualities or historic significance, it is time for you to stand up and let your voice be heard. Now, as never before, your American birthright, to own and enjoy guns, is being placed in dire jeopardy.

True, the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution says, and in basic intent guarantees, that "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." Despite the various contrary interpretations legal minds have endeavored to have recognized by the United States Supreme Court, the words and intent of our Founding Fathers still stand. In fact, under these guarantees some of the very early state laws restricting the carrying of concealed weapons, laws which gun-lovers themselves have accepted as wise, have been ruled unconstitutional.

But over recent years there has been a continuing and malignant campaign by "do-gooders" and other uninformed or selfishly ambitious persons against the sporting use of firearms and ownership of firearms in general. In addition to the sincere, conscientious class of citizens like ourselves, who recognize and use the American right of freedom of speech, there have been, as might be suspected, Communist-backed activity to make firearms ownership in this country unduly restrictive and contributory to an unarmed, less alert and practically defenseless American citizenship in case the Communists should ever attempt overt insurrection.

A specific example was the recent organized attempt to obtain a firearms registration law for Los Angeles County, a full account of which was given in *THE SPORTING GOODS DEALER*. When the loud-voiced advocates were one by one investigated and

challenged in open meeting by sportsmen-citizens determined to defend their right to bear arms, it was established—and admitted—that at least one gun registration proponent was a high official in the Communist Party of Los Angeles!

Whatever their classification, the anti-gun advocates, like overly zealous sculptors, have been gradually chipping away at the block of granite represented by the Second Amendment. According to a report by the National Rifle Association, more than 300 proposed laws affecting firearms use and/or ownership were placed in legislative hoppers within a single year. At the moment, there is another threatening flood. Most of the proposed laws, good and bad, have been introduced with the idea of ultimately reducing crime by making gun ownership difficult and theoretically keeping guns out of the hands of persons of criminal intent—despite the fact that the so-called Sullivan Law, passed with the commendable objective of making it impossible for criminals to obtain and illegally use guns, has been a flat failure in the State of New York. If anything, the Sullivan Law has only served to disarm the honest citizenship by making possession of firearms difficult, while in no strict sense affecting illegal acquisition and eventual misuse of firearms by criminals.

The use of a rifle in the cowardly, sadistic assassination of our President has brought about widespread public indignation concerning easy access of a gun to anyone having the purchase price, and especially so in respect to mail order sales.

Immediately following the assassination, newspaper editorials and TV commentators throughout the country deplored existing easy acquisition of firearms, especially by mail order. Only here and there did reason prevail over anger and sorrow,

and the truth made consciously reflective—that our late President was killed by a fanatic, not an inanimate object, and that honest sportsmen-citizens should not bear the brunt of reaction. The murder weapon could very well have been a bazooka or a grenade tossed at close range. Unfortunately for countless thousands of law-abiding Americans who own and love to use guns for sport, the chosen weapon was a rifle. Equally unfortunate was the fact that the murder weapon was of mail order origin, for many highly reputable firms depend on the mail order medium for direct sales of firearms to sportsmen.

Shooters themselves haven't helped the situation any in their rush to acquire souvenir Italian Carcano 6.5 mm rifles identical to the one that government investigators say was used in the assassination. The thoughtless, inconsiderate use of rural mail boxes, highway signs and power line insulators as targets by disappointed, gameless hunters the past season hasn't fostered public goodwill, either.

I believe the late President Kennedy was a man of firm convictions, a viewpoint shared by many other columnists—including even Ann Landers. I believe he was sincere when he made the following statement relative to the right of the law-abiding citizen to own and use firearms for sport and defense, and I do not believe that he would have changed his attitude had he had knowledge of his ultimate death from a rifle in the hands of a man consumed by warped thinking and insane hatred:

"By calling attention to a well regulated militia for the security of the nation, and the right of each citizen to keep and bear arms, our Founding Fathers recognized the essentially civilian nature of our economy. Although it is extremely unlikely that the fears of governmental tyranny, which gave rise to the Second Amendment, will ever be a major danger to our nation, the Amendment still remains an important declaration of our basic military-civilian relationships, in which every citizen must be ready to participate in the defense of his country. For that reason, I believe the Second Amendment will always be important."

John F. Kennedy

In support of his convictions, President Kennedy was a member of the National Rifle Association, an organization comprising several hundred thousand responsible citizens.

But in the wake of President Kennedy's assassination, there has been a flood of hastily introduced bills, aimed at putting stricter laws in the law books. Revision and further consideration of the Thomas J. Dodd bill in Congress, to curb mail order sales of all firearms—not just handguns, as first proposed—and a somewhat similar Frank M. Karsen bill in the House of Representatives, have been supplemented with other restrictive bills in state legislatures. These anti-gun introductions, developed largely because of regret, indignation and



Informal shooting with a handgun is fun for many, and most persons like to have a handgun in the home for protection; both legal rights under our Second Amendment.

other high peak emotions, have brought about requests from sportsmen for unhurried, sensible study of gun-law problems rather than additional unenforceable measures.

Even forcing sportsmen to first seek a permit to purchase can cause confusion. In North Carolina, for example, where such a law is in effect, the would-be purchaser of a handgun must first obtain a permit to purchase from the Clerk of Court. This the purchaser presents to his sporting goods dealer, who picks up the permit when he delivers the handgun to the customer. Having surrendered the permit, the purchaser has no proof thereafter of legal acquisition and, in time, the dealer either throws away, loses his records or perhaps goes out of business. Also, sales of second-hand guns among target shooters are continuously brisk—and 99 times out of 100 without presentation of a permit to purchase. The only benefit from such a law, as resident shooters view the situation, is to a local county's Clerk of Court, who issues a permit (subsequently meaningless) to purchase a new handgun and collects a fee therefor.

Fortunately, America's sportsmen-shooters are being recognized as law-abiding citizens with certain basic legal rights by level-headed editorialists and elected representatives. Congressmen Frank J. Becker, of New York; Charles E. Bennett, Florida; Senator E. L. Bartlett, Alaska; Congressman Cecil R. King, California, and Congressman John Dingell, of Michigan, are a few of the legislators who are consciously aware that the use of firearms for sporting purposes is both an American birthright and common sense national defense. The latter two lawmakers even urge Federal aid for public shooting ranges.

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DOGS Hunting - Trials - Training

By JIM FLOYD

Duck Boats

Spaniel and Labrador take
top honors at Georgia-Florida
Retriever Field Trials

THE ANNUAL RETRIEVER trial of the Georgia-Florida Field Trial Club was held on the beautiful grounds of the Sinkola Plantation, north of Tallahassee, January 5, 1964. Perfect weather, perfect trial grounds, perfect host, and an excellent entry combined to make this third annual retriever trial an outstanding event. Inasmuch as the Georgia-Florida Field Trial Club is a member-only event and the membership is primarily made up of plantation owners, the retriever field trial does not follow the standards established by the American Kennel Club for retriever trials, but rather a standard designed to test the hunting retrievers as used on these plantations.

Tests that might be considered unheard of at a regular retriever trial, are justified at this specialty trial. To properly view the test in which a retriever is required to ride a hunting wagon and upon command leave the wagon, retrieve a shot quail and return to the wagon with the quail, one must consider that this is a common usage of retrievers in plantation-type quail hunting. While many retriever field trial enthusiasts might shudder at the thought of such test, it must be brought out that the tests were designed to enable the judges to select the best dog for a particular type of hunting.

During the one-day event, a series of five stakes were completed and while this may appear to be a lot of dog-work, the average stake consisted of a single test. The stakes of the Georgia-Florida retriever trial were: Open All-Age, Quail Retrieving, Dove Retrieving, Duck Retrieving and Puppy Stake. In each stake, retrieving spaniels competed against the larger labradors and chesapeakees. While the larger retrievers had a decided advantage over the smaller spaniels in the water test, the spaniels held their own in the quail and dove fields.

One of the highlights of the day appeared in the final test of the duck retrieving division when two dogs were called back for further testing as the judges were unable to select a clear-cut winner. This call back found Mrs. G. M. Humphrey and her black labrador, "Ben Tulloch Beaver," pitted against Royal Firman III and his black labrador, "Foxspring Target." On the surface this was nothing more than a final testing, but actuality, it was a grandmother competing against her fifteen year old grandson. While Mrs. Humphrey and "Ben Tulloch Beaver" managed to edge out the grandson and "Foxspring Target," this does not end the story. "Foxspring Target" was a birthday gift from the grandparents and "Beaver" had originally been intended as the gift. However, Beaver's dam was a bit late with delivery, therefore, Beaver was replaced by Target as the birthday gift.

During the day the judges were required to select the winners of the various divisions and in addition, select the outstanding spaniel and the outstanding retriever. Inasmuch as the labrador, Ben Tulloch Beaver, owned and handled by Mrs. G. M. Humphrey, placed first in two divisions and presented an excellent performance in the other stakes, he received the award as the best retriever of the day. A hard working little brown and white English Cocker Spaniel that could walk with ease under the belly of the larger labrador, received the nod from the judges as the best all-round spaniel. "Greatford Pinch," owned and handled by Miss Frances C. Griscom, competed in every stake and division and received a Judges Award of Merit in two and in addition, caught the eye and stole the heart of all who observed her performance. Both Beaver and Pinch were just and popular wins. While there were some husky men handlers, the

FIELD TRIAL RESULTS ON PAGE 26



Outstanding spaniel at the Georgia-Florida Retriever Field Trials was "Greatford Pinch," a four year old English Cocker Spaniel, here with owner-handler Miss Frances C. Griscom, Wateroak Plantation, Tallahassee, Fla.



Outstanding retriever at the Georgia-Florida Retriever Field Trials was "Ben Tulloch Beaver," a two year old Black Labrador, here with owner-handler Mrs. G. M. Humphrey, Milestone Plantation, Thomasville, Georgia.

two outstanding dogs were both handled by ladies. A quick preview of the results will indicate that of the four stakes reported, each stake was won by a lady handler. In fact, of the 18 people that visited the winners circle, ten were ladies and it wasn't because the judges were men. You might say it was ladies day at the Georgia-Florida Retriever Trial.

Dog Affliction Studied

AN AMERICAN Kennel Club program for the study and possible cure of hip dysplasia took a step forward late last month in a symposium at A.K.C. headquarters. Hip dysplasia is an affliction of the ball and socket joints in dogs. Breeders and others have been seeking a cure for 30 years.

Involved at the gathering were 25 to 30 veterinarians, medical doctors and other specialists brought in from many parts of the United States and from Sweden and Canada.

"The ailment is one in which the ball and socket joint of the hip do not form properly so as to give normal action to the leg," Neff said. "In its advanced stages it is extremely painful and dogs are frequently put to sleep to relieve them of the pain."

Two years ago the Animal Kennel Club went to the American Veterinary Medical Association in Chicago and asked that it undertake a study of the affliction at A.K.C. expense.

"The A.V.M.A. came up with the idea that an effort be made to locate these scientists who have been conducting independent research in the affliction, either in animals or people.

"The association located a group of specialists,

very few of whom had had an opportunity to collaborate previously. Each one who attended read a paper or gave a talk on his activities. Also present were well-known geneticists who, while not authorities on hip dysplasia, discussed genetics as it might apply to the disease. They contributed a great deal."

The symposium lasted two days. No conclusions were reached, but all seemed to regard the meeting as the first organized effort to bring together all the available knowledge on the affliction.

The American Kennel Club will continue its financial support to the American Veterinarian Medical Association for the project.

"The condition is more prevalent in some breeds than in others. Generally they are the larger breeds. It is found in the smaller breeds as well, but not so frequently.

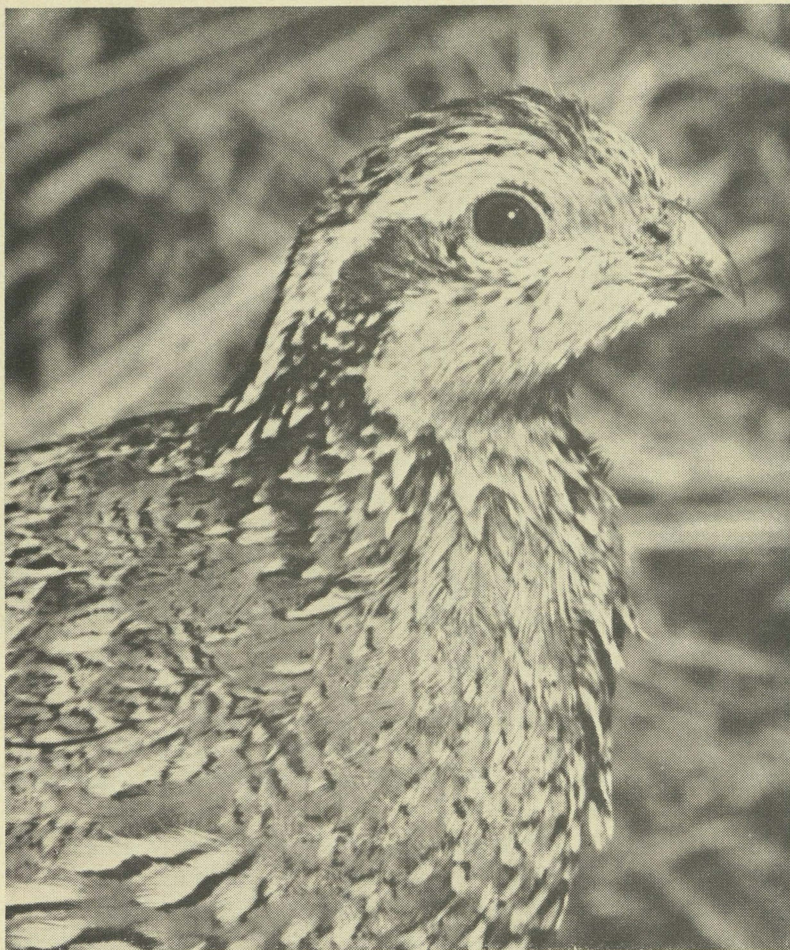
"The affliction is a matter of deep concern to the medical profession as well as to the veterinary profession, which is why the medical doctors were glad to join the veterinarians in an exchange of ideas."

Marauding Dogs Are Declared "Fair Game"

DOGS WHICH PURSUE elk or deer are declared to be public nuisances in a new law enacted in Pennsylvania and their killing is permitted under certain circumstances.

The law will permit any person to kill dogs which are close enough to endanger elk or deer, are in the act of attacking, or have been known to have killed the game animals within a three-month period. In

(Continued on page 26)



FEMALE BOBWHITE QUAIL

"**W**E CAN PUT quail on any man's land if he'll just follow directions."

Sound like a broad statement?

It comes from a game biologist who has worked with quail in Florida since 1947, Robert W. Murray. He, as others, has long since learned that this popular game bird is directly a product of the land.

Poor land-management practices mean a poor quail crop. Proper land-management practices mean plenty of quail with no worries about overshooting, predation, or disease.

It is as simple as that.

Florida has been and still can continue to be an above-average quail state. But the days of thinking that natural, unmanaged ranges can supply enough food and shelter for these birds are long past. The immediate need is for more game for more guns—from rapidly diminishing lands. This can only be accomplished

through land-management practices beneficial to quail.

Fortunately, through state investigations and federal help in the form of Federal Aid to Fish and Wildlife, commonly called the Pittman-Robertson Act (See *FLORIDA WILDLIFE*, December, 1963). Florida, so far, has been able to maintain a quail population satisfying to its hunters.

If a small-game popularity contest were held in the Southeast, the quail would win, wings down, for it's a fast-flying, hunter-pleasing, explosive bundle seemingly with no bad habits. Farmers welcome the bird and its diet of insects and weed seeds. The bobwhite's clear call is appreciated in suburbia or country. And a bird dogs' rigid point, the noisy confusion of a covey's rise, the retrieve—these are the things that put the "partridge" permanently in the hearts of hunters.

The quail has been called a "gentleman" by no less an author

A gentleman among
gamebirds needs
a helping hand

THE BOBWHITE QUAIL

By ART HUTT

than Robert Ruark. Ruark's Old Man also reflected that he's never known a man who hunted quail that didn't come out of it a little more polite by comparison.

Not to mention the delicate table fare, pleasing to the palate of even the most discriminating gourmet.

Florida has two different quail within its borders, roughly separated by a line drawn east-west through Gainesville. Above the line is the Eastern bobwhite quail, *Colinus virginianus virginianus*. Below is a different subspecies, the Florida bobwhite quail, *Colinus virginianus floridanus*. The subspecies weighs in at about an ounce lighter and about one shade darker than its northern kin. The birds intermix freely, however, and it is sometimes difficult for the hunter to know exactly which bird he does have in his bag. Not that it makes any difference. The sport and flavor are consistent.

As a general rule, quail are

distributed evenly throughout our state. If one were pressured into mentioning an area of most abundance, the north central section would likely receive the nod.

The life cycle of the quail has been so thoroughly researched that the poor bird has no secrets left. There are misconceptions, however.

One is that quail have several broods a year, a fallacy supported by the sometimes appearance of newly hatched chicks late in the summer. But overlooked is the persistence of Mama and Papa quail. If their nest is destroyed, they try again. And again. And again. It is frequent that the second or third clutch will click. Which explains the late summer chicks.

Biologists have observed, too, that the successful hatching of just one chick will satisfy the proud parents.

Normally the hen will lay 14-to-15 eggs in her grass-covered nest on a one-a-day basis. In south Florida, the egg laying starts as early as March 15. It's about a month later in north Florida. Once the clutch is complete, the hen starts the 23-day incubation period. If conditions are normal, about 85% of the eggs will hatch.

But conditions aren't always normal. Excessive ground heat can—and often does—kill the eggs embryos. Extreme dryness can toughen the shell and its lining to such a point that the chick can't break through (the best hatches are in the normal wet springs and summers). Predators, such as snakes, hogs, raccoons, opossums, and skunks may find and feed on the eggs. Unhatched chicks are sometimes devoured by fire ants which crawl into the egg after the chick has started to chip its exit hole. And, of course, man may run over the nest with his tractor, burn it in a "cleaning" fire, or ruin it in any one of the many ways he has for making the land more economically attractive.



MALE BOBWHITE QUAIL

Photos By Wallace Hughes

If things go well, at eight weeks the quail chicks are three-fourths grown. In 12 weeks, they're adults.

The brood stays together during the summer, busily feeding on insects and seeds. As fall approaches, the family union becomes close and the birds move into fall and winter coveys, freely mixing among broods. Biologists call this the "fall shuffle."

Despite the old saw to the contrary, this shuffle occurs whether the birds are shot at or not.

With spring in the air, the hens and cocks pair off, but frequently reassemble, covey-style, to roost together on cool nights, breaking up in the daylight again.

Although at hatching time there is just about a 50/50 split between the sexes of the chicks, the hens, because of the egg-carrying and nesting duties, are more vulnerable to predation so the adult

cocks typically outnumber the available hens by about 15%.

Consequently, the male that you hear calling in the spring and summer, especially June, is usually a lonesome bachelor still vainly trying to find a mate. Frequently he'll adopt an established brood, creating a triangle and gathering lumps from the cock of the family. Bedraggled and male-pecked, it persists in tagging along anyway.

Mortality in a quail's world is extremely high. In fact, three out of every four birds hatched die within the year from natural causes—disease and predators. That's a 75% turnover every year, explaining why young birds of the year determine hunter success.

The startling thing about this high rate of turnover is that these birds will die whether they are shot at or not. Exhaustive
(Continued on next page)

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comparative percentages worked out on hunted and unhunted lands, particularly in Florida's Charlotte County, substantiate this oddity. Where other states have tried the "sanctuary" method, no increase in quail population has ever been reported.

Predators play a negligible role in quail populations, yet this role is magnified by the uninformed individual. To get to the truth of the matter, stomach content analyses have been run on many of the accused culprits. House cats and foxes, commonly blamed for depleting quail populations, were completely absolved of predation severe enough to cause any concern. Conversely, they may be more friend than foe since their main food are rodents. And rodents compete directly with quail for grain food. One overzealous private preserve bountied foxes, then found the rats increased so much that they tried to restock with foxes again.

Hawks get a few quail but most biologists figure that this normal predation eliminates the weaklings. A healthy, alert bird can usually get into cover.

With the turnover—this 75% mortality without guns—comes the question "why not a bigger bag

limit?" Currently the Florida limit is 10, a figure that insures a fair share to all hunters.

Game biologists know it is almost impossible, by normal shooting, to harvest more than 30% of the birds on a range. Some coveys are never found, others are in inaccessible places, and hunters eventually give up in areas where birds are scarce. For these reasons, while the specialists admit you may be able to overshoot a covey, they know you can never overshoot a range. The birds "fill in" and also take advantage of a natural law which applies to gallinaceous birds and which states that when the breeding population is low, the rate of comeback is rapid.

Going back to Florida's problem, that of putting more game before more guns, the solutions are being sought in two Pittman-Robertson Projects, one on research, the other on development.

The boss-man of the research project in south Florida is A. S. Krug. The bulk of his work is car-

Photo By Wallace Hughes



Photo By Tom Wayman

Since mortality among quail is extremely high, closed seasons do not necessarily increase the population. Three out of every four birds hatched die within the year from natural causes. Habitat and food requirements determine the high or low of quail populations.



Photos By Wallace Hughes

The ideal home for quail is one-part woodland, one-part brushland, one-part cultivated land, and one-part grassland. This area in north Florida, above, meets the requirements, but would be much improved by the addition of a hedgerow along the fence. Bobwhite quail, right, are homebodies, and rarely wander more than a mile from birthplace during life span.

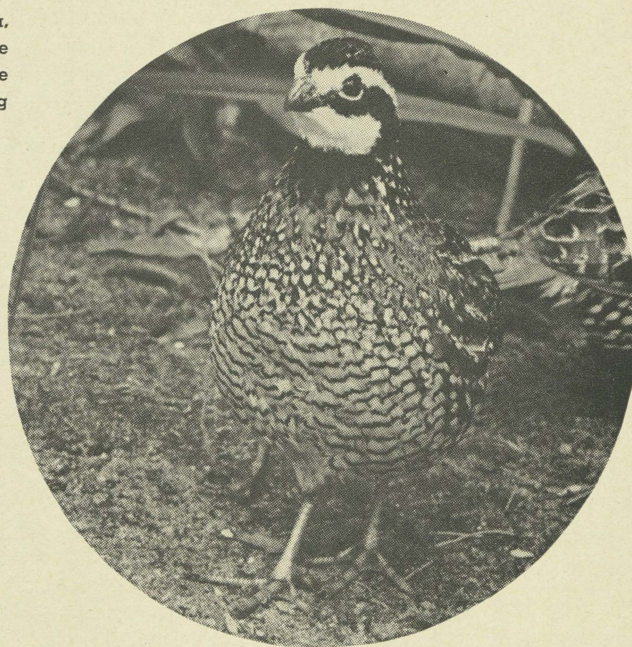
ried on at the Cecil M. Webb Wildlife Management area where he and his helpers study the habitat factors which increase or decrease quail populations. One facet of the program involves land manipulations or practices—burning and discing to create annuals, types of plantings, feeders, uses of fertilizer—all in an effort to see which practices create the most quail for the least money.

A first consideration of any experimental work is to know what you have initially so that this figure can be compared with what you end up with. “Before” and “after” census counts are commonly taken with bird dogs locating the coveys. On huge tracts, coveys are counted in definite strips of land, then this figure is used to average it to the total area. Kill counts and trapping counts are used, too.

Overgrazed pasture lands are noticeably poor quail lands for the cattle eat many of the plants that would grow seed for the quail. A large part of Krug’s work centers around automatic quail feeders, their type and most useful concentration per acreage. To date, it appears that feeders have their place, especially on the ranch lands where a natural food plot would have to be fenced to protect it from the cattle (fencing is expensive!).

Feeders, however, can be bothered by rodents, hogs and bears. And rattlers like to lay in their shade. To keep the big stuff out, the game technicians have devised an 8 x 8 x 8 foot triangular fence.

R. W. Murray heads the development project. Putting it basically, he’s the contact man between the quail and the landowner, using the P-R devel-



oped system of working with the landowner in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service. Under his project quail food planting material is sold at cost, by the Commission, to landowners.

Actually, quail don’t demand much out of the ordinary. They need food and cover. But the food and cover must be mixed. Quail are the least mobile species of American game except the cottontail. Probably half of the quail spend their life span within a quarter mile of their birth, although some may move several miles, particularly in the open flatwoods of south Florida.

Take a typical covey. Assume it ranges within 40 acres. Set this acreage down in the middle of a huge improved pasture. Or transport this 40 acres to the center of an extensive northwest Florida planted pine forest.

(Continued on page 33)

I HAD A DISCUSSION about light tackle the other day. I told a fellow that a friend of mine had just caught a tarpon of over 100 pounds on a fly rod.

"You're a liar," he said.

I have had many such discussions about light tackle.

I told a man in a tackle shop that I did most of my snook fishing with a fly rod. He laughed.

"Nobody," he said, "can catch a snook with a fly rod."

And he left.

Of course these fellows hadn't waited long enough to learn what KIND of a fly rod or any of the other circumstances and neither was much of a fisherman but their responses show that light tackle isn't generally understood.

For one thing, what's light tackle for one fish is heavy for another.

A spinning outfit with 10-pound-test line is fairly heavy tackle for black bass. For sailfish or marlin it's light enough to approach the "stunt" category.

When I speak of "ultra-light" tackle, I think of gear that's fragile enough to be unsuited for the job under normal circumstances. For example, I consider 2-pound spinning line ultra-light for Florida bass. If I were fishing for bluegills it would still be light tackle but not wholly unsuited for the job.

Ultra-light tackle attracts a lot of attention with the public, most of whom feel that a man who can catch a barracuda on 4-pound line is just twice as good a fisherman as one who can catch him on 8-pound line. If you seek glory, use ultra-light tackle and make it look hard.

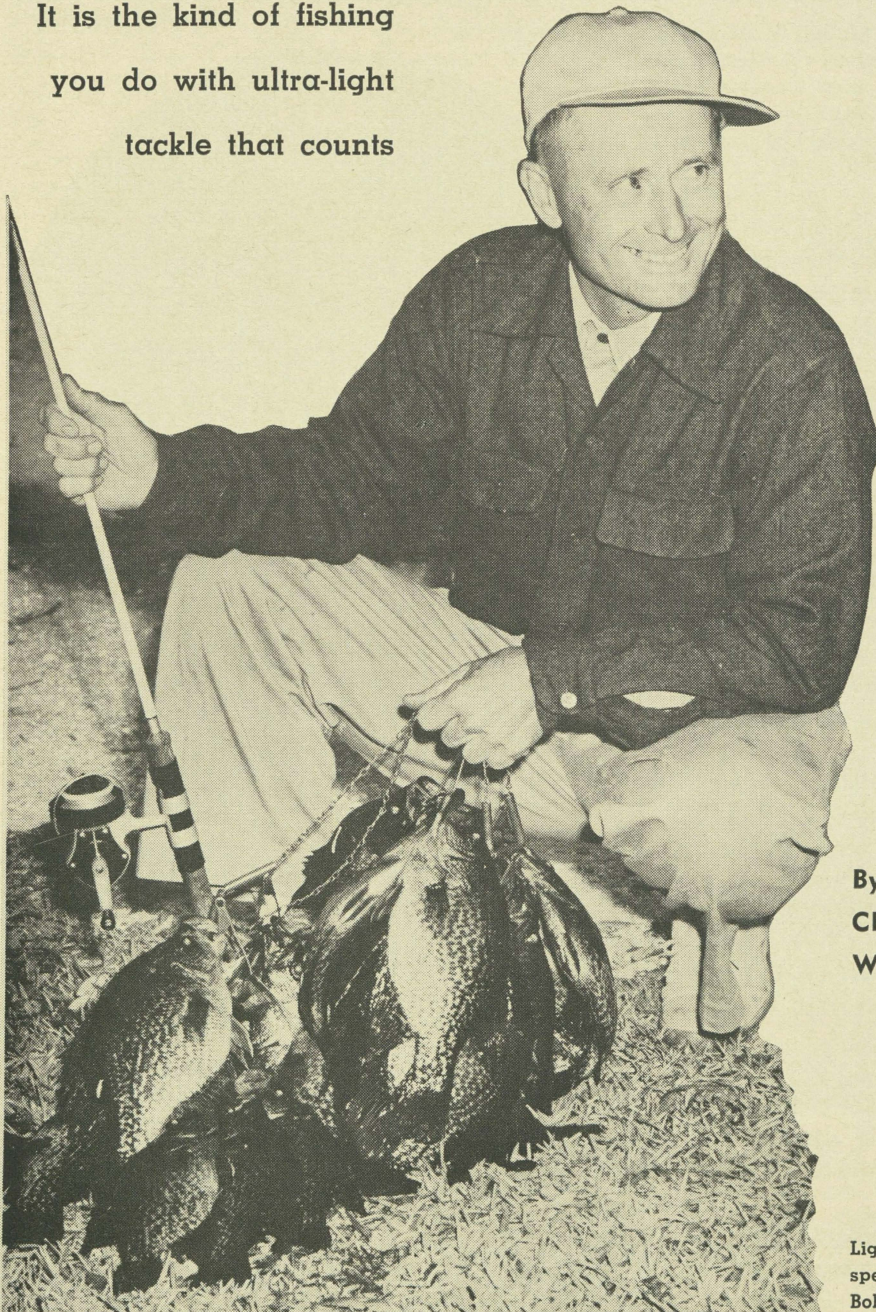
It is the kind of fishing
you do with ultra-light
tackle that counts

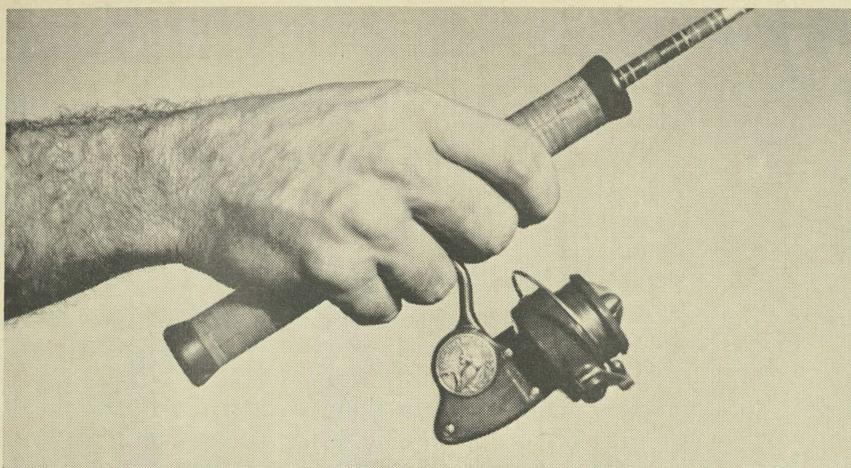
ULTRA LIGHT

T A C K L E

By
CHARLES
WATERMAN

Light line and delicate rods are perfect for speckled perch (crappie). Fisherman is Bob Budd, internationally famous caster.





A truly light spinning outfit. The little reel is an Alcedo Micron and fairly expensive. In the very small sizes, cheap reels are a poor investment.

There has been considerable national publicity about catching big Florida tarpon on 2-ounce fly rods and many shake their heads in disbelief. But note that, dependent on the angle it is held, a wisp of a 6-foot fly rod can pull just as hard as any other rod and if you point it straight at the subject and the reel doesn't break you can tow a cruiser with it. Sure it takes skill—but no magic.

In the case of the fly rod, big, powerful sticks are used on big fish because they can cast the proper flies for big fish and have the backbone to set a hook in normal use—not because they are needed to “hold” the fish. It is much less work to cast big flies with a suitable rod than with a “toothpick.”

On a recent fishing trip through several southern states I met a few fishermen who were just a wee bit haughty about the fact they use “ultra-light” spinning tackle. They have fun but I'm not particularly impressed. I have tried ultra-light in spinning, fly and plugging tackle and always returned to “normal” gear simply because it works better for the job.

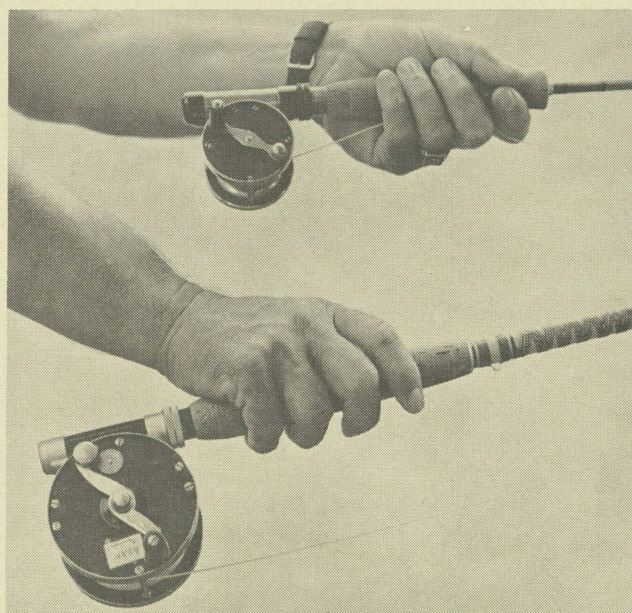
This piece is mostly about spinning because about 99 percent of those who want to go ultra-light will do it with spinning gear. Let's talk about fresh water spinning.

If you have a medium-weight fresh water outfit you wouldn't have to change reels to go the ultra-light route. Any open spinning reel and most closed ones will work with 4-pound line or lighter. The chances are that you will need a softer rod because your lures should weigh an eighth or a sixteenth of an ounce.

It is not necessary to use a short rod but the short rod weighs less and gives more of a feeling of ultra-light equipment. These featherweights can be bought at most good-sized tackle stores.

If like the ultra-light business after you get into it, then you can get a miniature reel and you're completely equipped. A high-grade reel is a necessary investment because very light line won't last long when cranked over rough bails or rollers.

The drag must be good if you're using light lines. That's another argument for a better grade of reel.



A rough, inconsistent drag will break “hairlines.” If your fish is going to run a long way, remember that the *effective* drag weight increases greatly as the supply of line dwindles from the spool.

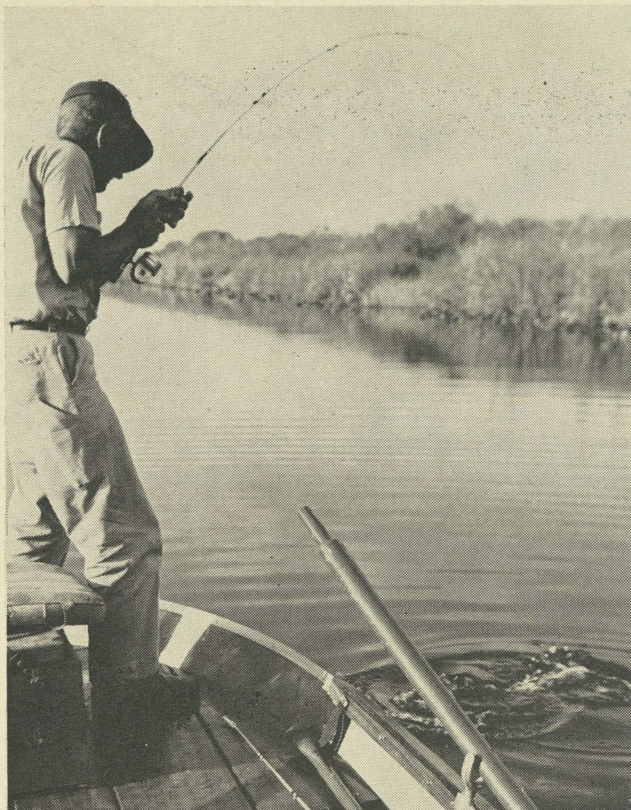
Now that you're in the tippy-toe league, inspect your guides carefully. Light line has small diameter and what might appear as only slight roughness on heavier stuff will mean a broken line when you get below four pounds test.

Check your knots and test the tip of the line after every few casts. The chances are that if you started out with 4-pound line it will test no more than two pounds after your knot has worn a little or the line has dragged over a few bonnets. Be sure that the pick-up device on your reel is smooth. Don't let cigaret ashes get on your line. Keep it fairly clean. Don't let it twist. Don't use the same line too long. Run it out behind a boat occasionally.

Elementary advice? Sure it is but most of us don't pay too much attention to these details when we use heavier equipment.

This very light stuff isn't very suitable for bottom-hugging lures or plastic gadgets because those

(Continued on next page)



Using four-pound test line, this fisherman handles a good bass with care. Experience has taught him just how much his outfit can take.

(Continued from preceding page)

things get hung up frequently and require a husky pull now and then.

Any light line is touchy for use with live bait, especially if you let the fish have slack before setting the hook. When a fish is down on the bottom, maybe in bottom growth, no one knows how much of a yank it will take to set the hook. If you use live bait, something a little heavier would be better.

Use small, sharp hooks.

Never jerk. You can use a quick pull but never jerk. By "jerking" I mean yanking on a slack line so that it comes taut with a snap. If you use two or 4-pound line the snap may be louder than you expect.

Tie your light line to something and take a strain with your rod. Of course, you'll be surprised at how much it takes to break the line with a steady pull. You'll also be surprised at how easily it can be jerked in two. On this dry run you can establish the angle at which you will hold your rod when you play a fish and also your drag tension. Following these rules will automatically lead to the "light touch." I guess it's fun at that.

If it's baitcasting tackle you're going light with,

I guess you'd better cast monofilament and use a free-spool reel—unless you prefer a small, tournament-type casting reel—most of which have narrow spools.

Braided nylon line is better to cast with but when it gets smaller than 10-pound test, I don't recommend it. It's too easily damaged in use.

Most users of very light casting gear go to longer rods and tend toward those with light tips. The light-tip rods, which are currently so popular, will also handle heavier lures but if you want to use very light baitcasting lures only (an eighth to a quarter-ounce) I think you'd be better off with a rod that's light all the way down—no compromise. Then use a different outfit for heavier duty.

When we come to ultra-light fly tackle we make a big impression on the peasantry because the term "fly tackle" connotes featherweight equipment.

Actually, except for sunfishing, I can't see much place for a really light fly outfit in Florida. Every time I set up a dainty freshwater trout outfit for use in this neck of the woods I end up wanting to throw a big bug it won't handle or run into bonnet-bound bass I can't stop with a 2-pound tippet.

The real measure of fly equipment as to "lightness" would have to be the strength of the leader tippet. If your leader is tapered as it should be for best results, an ultra-light tippet is tied not only to the fly but also to a bigger piece of monofilament. Flail that around for a while and the actual test strength is apt to be pretty skimpy. Throw an accidental knot into such a tippet and even a bream may break it if assisted by an excitable fisherman.

As to ultra-light fly tackle from the weight stand-

Albert Guenther, Daytona Beach teacher, puts on the pressure to keep a five pound bass out of underwater vegetation. This is spinning tackle but it's no place for "threadline."



Bass like this one, caught in grassy waters, require husky fly tackle.

point—I'm all for that. Put on a six or 8-pound leader—or 10-pound if you like—and have at it. True weight in ounces is no longer a measure of rod action. Glass sticks are made with big butts, small butts, thick walls, thin walls and tapered walls. What may appear to be built for very light lines may not work well with them at all.

A dealer wanted me to try a super-light glass rod the other day. Since it was only six feet long, it fooled me badly. I stuck it into the car together with a reel containing a light fly line and drove 40 miles to a bass lake.

I unloaded the boat, motored out to fishing territory, strung up the rod and went to work. The word "work" is well chosen. Light and short though it was that accursed stick needed the heaviest line I own and that was back at home. The little line I had brought might as well have been wrapping string. After an hour of vicious arm waving, I gave up, went home and signed a pledge never again to take an experimental outfit fishing unless it had first been tried in the back yard. Later, with appropriate line, the rod worked beautifully.

Without taking anything away from the skill needed to subdue them, most of the really big fish caught on ultra-light tackle are hooked under optimum conditions—conditions carefully set up by fishermen who are careful to go to the right place before wetting a lure.

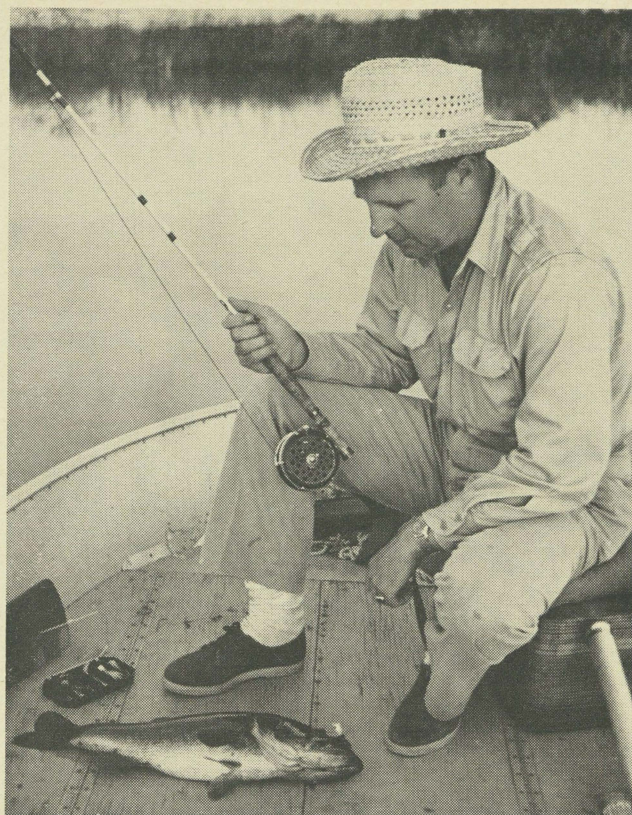
For example, there is a small and select group of South Florida fishermen who belong to the "Ten To One" club. This means that each member has caught a fish weighing ten times the test-strength of the line or leader used.

That would mean, for example, that you could gain membership by catching a 10-pound bass on line that tested a pound or less. The nature of bass waters makes this well-nigh an impossibility.

If you get into lines heavy enough to take normal manipulation, the "ten to one" fish you're after will have to be so big they're hard to find.

Now a fish so caught would have to be living in open water and should not be the type that will dig into the bottom. It can be done with tarpon in an area such as the Florida Keys where fish can often be worked into shallow water where they tend to jump a lot and where final landing operations are not handicapped by great depth. An 80-pound tarpon on 8-pound line would not be a miracle.

Some of the "Ten To One" winners have caught tarpon that went more than 120 pounds on flyrods using 12-pound leaders (with the addition of a



"shock" tippet). That's quite an achievement but possible and provable.

Some of the club members qualified by catching big, 100-pound Pacific sailfish on 10-pound line. Again it takes a lot of know-how but it's not unlikely that the average angler could do it with practice.

I have always maintained that finding, attracting and hooking a fish takes more skill than playing him. With a good drag properly adjusted there aren't too many mistakes you can make, regardless of whether the tackle is baitcasting, spinning, fly-casting or trolling.

With any light tackle operation the actual landing is touchy business. There should be special attention given to the net or gaff and the way it is to be used.

Swatting with a net is fatal to light line as are wild swipes with gaff hooks. Minor hazards such as anchor ropes and propellers turn into big trouble when the line or leader is very light.

I would say the first thing a prospective ultra-light tackle fisherman should do is to tie the fish end of his outfit to a tree and then back off and see what it will take. In five minutes he can learn techniques that will save his bacon later.

If you're bored with fishing, try it. What-the-heck? ●

DIG THEIR GRAVES,

MR. SPORTSMAN

Photo By Leonard Lee Rue III

DOOMSDAY FOR WHITE-TAILS will not be tomorrow, perhaps not this year, nor maybe not even the next. But before much time has spilled into history, a stench of death will permeate valleys and mountains from the muddy Mississippi to the crashing white surf of the Atlantic. Deer will die by thousands, and bloated carcasses teeming with maggots will strew field and forest, with skies ornamented by circling vultures. Death won't be easy, but long with much agony.

This will not be the fault of Nature, but because of distorted ideas which dictate tomorrow for these graceful creatures. Blame then will fall upon the shoulders of many sportsmen and naturalists, and consciences will be shadowed for those who cherish these animals most.

These predictions may be reminiscent of those

By **FRANK A. HAYES, D.V.M.**

you already have heard from Deer Biologists of your acquaintance. But of course, many self-styled deer authorities accept their Game Biologist with the proverbial grain of salt; after all, "He is paid by the State, and says what the State wants him to say."

You have the answers, Mr. Deer Hunter, because no doubt you have killed some deer and skinned or field dressed even more. Perhaps you also have grown up in deer country, and through many years of experience you have solutions for all problems involving deer management.

But do you really know, Mr. Deer Hunter? Do you really know what the insides of a deer look like? Can you detect a stomach loaded with 15,000 worms, or do you realize the significance of frothy, oozing, blood-streaked lungs? Think back, have you ever seen a browsed-out range; can you recognize grim evidence of overpopulation; but better yet, have you witnessed starving, emaciated, helpless animals, wandering upon a wasteland and begging Nature for just one morsel of food?

The Game Biologist is very familiar with these phenomena, Mr. Deer Hunter, and he knows what

The author is Director of the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, at the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia, Athens. This is the first regional diagnostic and research service established in the United States for the specific purpose of investigating diseases of wild mammals. The project is supported by the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Region 4). Participating states include Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

the guts and organs of deer should look like. He has enjoyed the normal, and pitied the sick, so it is quite possible that this man has some rather startling facts to relate.

But if you're not interested, stop now, because before this plea has finished, many amateurs in the field of wildlife management may be insulted. For those who really care, however, and share a genuine interest for the future of wild deer, your Biologist has a harsh but realistic story to tell.

Perhaps it should start with Genesis—or in the beginning—for at the commencement of the 20th century, white-tailed deer virtually had been liquidated from the southeastern United States and throughout many other regions of this country. By 1910, wild deer of the Southeast grappled for life and fought annihilation within restricted confines and on rough terrains essentially impregnable by mankind. For the next 10 years, this piteous lot of survivors eaked out an existence in spite of commercial hunting, unrestricted poaching, and incessant pursuit by packs of dogs. For a fleeting decade, mankind thus had temporarily decreed total eradication of white-tails in the Southeast.

But somehow, during the relentless massacre of the 1890's and early 20th century, a few isolated deer herds had survived man's merciless slaughter. Each of these instances constitutes a legend in itself.

For an example, the true story is told of a one-man deer preserving campaign that happened in the swamps along the Tombigbee River of southwestern Alabama. Within a few thousand acre tract, this determined and dedicated individual patrolled and protected his cherished animals. Violators were dubious of the premises, and for many painful years the muzzle of a shotgun sustained life and afforded a fighting chance for survival. The descendants of these very animals later supplied a nucleus for today's swelling deer population throughout the magnificent habitat of Alabama.

Many other tales of slaughter and survival have been passed down through the decades, from generation to generation, all over the southeastern United States. The way back was hard.

Although deer restoration in the United States began as early as 1898—in Vermont for example—critical concern for these animals in the Southeast did not evolve until the mid and late twenties. Concerted efforts towards restocking commenced in the early thirties, and tremendous strides were to follow. By 1940, the return of white-tails was inevitable.

No doubt The War Years also contributed to an about-face in the salvage of wild species. After

World War II, white-tails were back, and their numbers rapidly soared to a position for acclaiming a rightful place under the sun. Law and order also crept to a more prominent place in our social system, and State Game and Fish Agencies grew to greater influence in both management and enforcement.

The early fifties proved to be a brief era during which vital decisions were to be made. The subsequent laws and regulations formed during this period therefore became destined to exert a profound affect upon the future of wild deer in the Southeast.

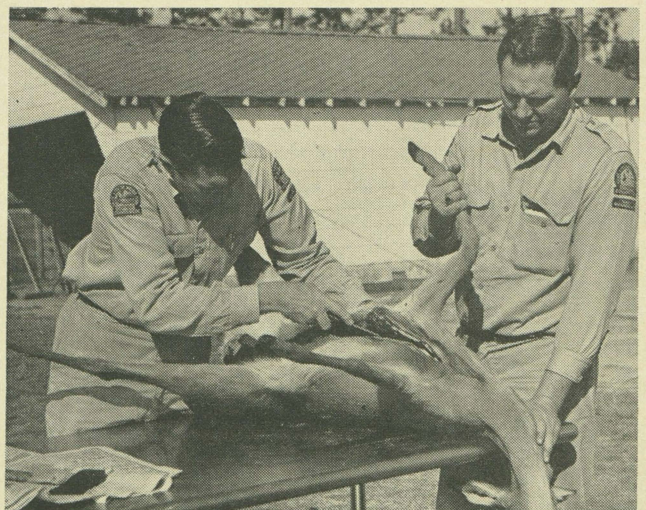
In retrospect of the drastic decline of white-tails to near extinction in the Southeast, followed by their dramatic and almost unbelievable return, two pertinent questions have arisen. First, who brought them back, and second, can we keep them? The answers are not difficult, Mr. Deer Hunter, as they involve you each time. You brought them back, and your decisions will govern whether or not they stay.

The next question—will your future judgment be as sound as it once was in the past? Right now, prospects look rather dim, as it is becoming more and more obvious that during the last decade indecision and controversy have reigned from the Everglades of Florida to the Ozarks of Arkansas, and from the eastern shores of Virginia to the bayous of Louisiana. Already, misinformation and dogmatic attitudes have been responsible for an inexcusable destruction of many deer ranges, and in some instances complete deterioration of entire deer herds has been caused by a profound unwillingness to keep abreast with changing times. Will these abortions in the name of deer management continue, or is it vaguely possible that the public soon will awaken to crying needs for newer and more progressive policies?

Time is running out, but the candle of knowledge

(Continued on next page)

Photo By Dick Eichhorn



Can you detect a deer stomach loaded with 15,000 worms?
Can you recognize grim evidence of over-population? Your
game biologist is familiar with these signs, and the con-
tinuous research reveals a harsh but realistic story.



Sign of creeping deterioration of deer herds is lowered vitality manifested by bucks with smaller and smaller antlers, and steady decline in body weight.

(Continued from preceding page)

never has burned brighter. So for the sake of your children, and the natural heritage of their children, you must listen and heed a story which years of research have made possible to tell. Men have dedicated their lives for this information to become available, and so that its application may shroud all laws and policies with wisdom, which will determine the future of white-tails throughout the southeastern United States.

In essence, an alarming situation is being created that involves wild deer all over the Southeast. Antiquated opinions, from which laws and regulations once were made, cannot and will not cope with a surging tide that now is on the brink of swamping a major portion of this region. Yes, a deer population explosion is occurring all around us, but many are too blind to see.

From what has been said, correlated with that which you already know, logical deductions can be made as to how all of this has come about. In fact, not so many years ago, I too was as guilty

as the next for perpetuating the knell of doom that currently hovers over white-tails.

How well I remember during the late thirties, when I accompanied my father on deer hunts in eastern North Carolina. I also vividly recall the day that I lost a shirt-tail for missing a buck, between which only I and a single barrel 12 guage shotgun stood from the sea. But I didn't really miss, nor was I suffering from "buck fever"—instead, I was plagued with pity for what at the time I sincerely felt was the last stand for wild deer in my home state.

The next day I remember even better, because one member of the hunting party brought in a headless deer that had been fully dressed. Although at the time I was not familiar with how illegal kills were "properly handled," I knew something was wrong. At least, this was better than current day practices of leaving killed does in the woods where they fall.

So from those experiences—after having traveled 250 miles to even see my first white-tail—I divorced myself from sport hunting of deer, until relatively recent years. I subsequently was bitterly opposed even to killing bucks, saying nothing for what I honestly considered a near act of murder where a doe was concerned. But I was wrong—wrong both times—just as so many others are today.

Our misgivings are easily understood, which particularly applies for so many admirable old timers who contributed so much to bringing the white-tail back throughout our beloved South Land. It's so easy to appreciate and sympathize with the way they must feel. Believe me, Gentlemen, I share your sentiments on this matter, but I have seen too much to continue my past misconceptions regarding deer harvest.

I have watched starvation, I have examined worm ridden carcasses, and I have been appalled from observing wild deer lose all apprehension for mankind, because the pains of hunger and famine have driven them into a state of docileness and helplessness. I also have had the bitter experience of picking up fawns by the dozens, from their last and final frozen beds in the snow.

But worse yet, on all too many occasions I have witnessed creeping deterioration within entire deer herds. This is a gradual and insidious process, where vitality is drained, to be manifest by smaller and smaller antlers with steady declines in body weight. Once this type degradation is under way, it only is a matter of time before the wasted bodies of all deer will resemble gaunt jack rabbits more than the once proud stock from whence they came.

From this disturbing and depressing background, I had to change many of my early concepts pertaining to harvesting white-tailed deer. It was imperative for me to face reality, the same as you must do, or Hell hath not the fury to compare with the

ravishes of famine and pestilence which are in store for white-tails throughout our land below the Mason-Dixon. Our Yankee and Western friends also may well read the handwriting on the wall,—many already have, but some have not.

This course of events evolves from three simple facts—*too many deer, too little food, and too many worms*. Only a few years ago critical conditions were restricted in locality, but with every fawn crop the crisis became more acute and widespread. Now, as each summer rolls by the calendar, a noose of destruction tightens, and region-wide catastrophe becomes more eminent. The single hope for alleviation is through *adequate deer harvest*, which not only will be of untold value for the health and well-being of deer themselves, but simultaneously, recreation will be afforded far beyond the realm of most hunter's present imagination.

Along this line of thought, *range carrying capacity* constitutes magic words for all successful deer management programs. Strangely enough, however, only a few of the most experienced deer hunters understand the full significance and impact of this term.

For example, why will one area support three to four times the number of deer that possibly can be produced in another area of identical size? Another way of phrasing the same question—and one which often is asked—why are deer much larger on one area than another, when from all outward indications their numbers are the same? This, my fellow sportsmen, is a direct result of differences in *range carrying capacity*.

As a means of explaining this dilemma, 20 cattle might be visualized grazing on lush, high protein legumes comprising the ultimate in nutrition. Right across the ridge another 20 head of the same type cattle have only broomsedge to sustain their existence. Under such comparative circumstances, a stretch of imagination is not necessary for predicting which herd of animals will be most productive and profitable to an owner. In fact, any livestock producer, who still is in business, knows the broomsedge fed animals will wither and die, and those bathed in proteins with necessary minerals will fatten and prosper. This is not supposition, but a fundamental principle on which a billion dollar livestock industry annually revolves.

Yet, so many sportsmen still refuse to recognize that identical differences exist in range potentialities for white-tailed deer.

Now let us continue our allegory, and imagine that within the lush pasture, which is adequate for 20 cows, the number of grazing animals is allowed to increase by threefold. But better yet, suppose the number of cattle on the broomsedge field is doubled. With either situation, for many years cattlemen have been able to readily foresee the inevitable outcome that consists of: malnutrition,



Adequate "either sex" deer hunting in areas found to be overpopulated is of untold value for the health and well being of the deer herd, present and future.

intolerable worm burdens, debilitation, and death. This sequence of events therefore is in direct response to overcrowding, which must be rigidly avoided for the successful production of any form of livestock. The same thing applies to white-tailed deer.

It therefore should be reiterated that great differences exist between deer ranges. For example, an estimated 80 acres might be required to adequately support one deer in the Sylamore Forest of Arkansas, but on the black delta of the same state, or the rich coastal plains of Maryland, deer do well with only 15 acres per animal.

Now comes the big question which always is asked, and that can stir up more controversy than there are deer hunters in Texas. Why not artificially feed wild deer—go ahead and say it—I once wondered myself? But just remember, when you do, it marks a beginning of the end.

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Oh sure, anyone knows that deer can be raised in a pen—and even do quite well on alfalfa hay, dairy feed, and corn—so why not in the wild? In other words, why not increase the carrying capacity of a deer range by supplementary feeding?

This “why not” is simple to answer, because in doing so the range itself becomes destroyed. This is because the deer population will be boosted until all natural food staples have become depleted, after which animals become totally dependent upon artificial feeding. A vicious cycle thereby is established, with gluttonous, carrion-devouring insects lurking for the final harvest.

So unless you are prepared to feed the entire deer herd, every single day of each month, throughout the year, don't even consider these illusive practices. They only lead to decimation of the deer range itself, with wasteful squandering of all animals in the area.

In anticipation of your next question, perhaps I am jumping-the-gun in cautioning against indiscriminate usage of so-called “food plots” for white-tailed deer. Although I fully recognize that much research still is in order before conclusive information is obtained on this widely employed practice, there is substantial evidence that under most circumstances, planting grasses, clover, etc., constitutes a rather hopeless effort toward increasing a deer population beyond the natural range carrying capacity. Take a look yourself, during winter months when deer nutrition is at its lowest ebb—practically all you will find in these planted patches is close-cropped rye or oats, tough fescue stubble, deer tracks, and deer feces.

Indeed, there is much pessimism shadowing most claimed benefits derived from many expensive and unproven deer feed planting operations. Where they may serve to increase deer harvest through facilitating hunter access—that's another story—but usually this is not the objective. Instead, these quaint little fields, which so many cherish so much, merely form a deceptive picture, directed toward that which you do not want in the first place. Range destruction!

It is not that officials of your State Game Agency are not aware of the limitations in food-patch plantings for white-tails, but that they are dedicated to refereeing an eternal struggle between that which is right versus selfish and often unreasonable demands by sportsmen. Thus far, these well-meaning but misguided insidencies have shackled and retarded deer management beyond that which words can describe.

So on this controversial matter, for the future success of all deer management programs through-



Food patch plantings for deer has its limitations. Some deer range may be helped by plantings—most will not.

out the Southeast, it should behoove every sportsman to let his Game Biologist make the decision of *if*, *where*, and *when* any type of deer feed plantings should be initiated. Some places it might be indicated—most places it is not!

Now you ask, just who is a Game Biologist? Some know, but unfortunately many do not.

For the latter category, these men are professionals. They are well trained in their field, having spent many years of their lives preparing for a career which has as a sole purpose that of conserving and producing game animals for your recreational needs. In this field, Gentlemen, the Game Biologist is as well qualified as your physician or veterinarian for meeting his responsibilities as a public servant.

You do not instruct your pediatrician on matters pertaining to child care—nor do you pay a veterinarian for advice on animal health and then refuse to follow it. Unfortunately, in far too many instances, this is exactly what is happening in game management—you are paying for professional services which then are ignored. And it is for this very reason that in so many areas both deer populations and the range upon which they live essentially have deteriorated to a point where 25 years will be necessary before the deplorable situation can be corrected.

So don't take the words of these men too lightly, Gentlemen—they are standing on shoulders of giants!

When the day comes that all deer enthusiasts will listen and cooperate accordingly with professional services that are being paid for, the resources of your respective State Game and Fish Division will elevate deer hunting to a level beyond the wildest dreams that even your children might conceive. But if you continue scoffing the advice and warnings of those who have dedicated their lives for better game management, when that boy of yours grows up, it is unlikely that he will know what a healthy, wild deer should look like. The exploding southeastern deer population is just that serious, Gentlemen, and only you can correct it.

For many who are reading this very article, time is nearing when your State Game Biologist again will plead for the only logical solution to this imminent crisis. He not only will tell you how to nip-the-bud of a local calamity, but in the same words a plan will be outlined for attaining excellent deer hunting throughout practically every county of each state that comprises the vast expanses of Dixie. Could it be that on the next occasion you will heed this time honored advice, or will it be that once again these words of wisdom will fall upon deaf ears? Only time can tell, because what that man is going to say, many self-opinionated deer authorities won't like.



Abundance or scarcity of the natural food supply is the key to high or low deer populations. Deer food preferences and availability of preferred food on a given range are studies constantly evaluated by the professional game biologist.

Many haven't accepted it before, and some again will reject any and all suggestions pertaining to proper harvesting of deer. But this is exactly what your Game Biologist must recommend. He has said it before, he is saying it now, and he will continue to say it, as it is the only answer to an ever ballooning problem which already is casting dark shadows from the towering Hills of Tennessee to the Black Swamps of Virginia. This time, or the next time, or the time after that, you must allow these warnings to seep into your conscience and bloom forth as confidence in the professionals who are striving so hard to serve you.

Numerous localities already speckle the Southeast where a point of no return has been reached, and corrective measures are impossible—but still the demon of disease and death continues reaching its tentacles into newer areas. In order for this alarming trend to be stopped, with each fawn crop it is becoming more imperative that adequate deer harvests be inaugurated. This is not speculation, Gentlemen, but just plain facts! And regardless of how much you do or do not like the idea, *hunting does* is the only way of averting a malignancy that is draining vitality from deer herds over all the Southeast.

How has this disturbing situation come to exist? On the surface it may seem hard to understand, and for many it is even harder to see that it actually has and is continuing to happen. But let's take even another look, and go way back, to days when the Cherokee and Creek Indians were waging war atop Blood Mountain.

Long before the appearance of white man on this continent, deer were fairly numerous in all the sprawling wilderness that was destined to form the Confederacy. The Red Man himself took relatively few of these animals, but yet, Nature cleverly arranged for their numbers to be kept in balance with the forest in which they lived. Virgin timbers themselves constituted one limiting factor, for deer reproduce far below maximum capacity when browse has been shaded-out by giant trees. These unlimited tracts of dark woods also offered sanctuary for cougar and many other large predators, which played no small part in regulating the number of ungulates. Different from man, however, the big cats found doe deer much more vulnerable prey than the rustic buck—and who can tell, even the panther may have known that the female of this species offered far more tasty venison. So since the dawn of creation, Nature's population control mechanisms had been in effect, and they continued undauntedly until the era of white man.

Then came the settlers, then came the planta-

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DOGS - HUNTING

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the last case, the game warden must be notified.

Fines will be assessed against those who fail to notify the own-

er or game keeper of the killing of a dog within 48 hours, those who harbor a "killer dog," and dog owners who refuse to take action to restrain their dogs after they have been notified.

Duck Boats for Dogs

IF YOU USE A retriever in your duck hunting and if you hunt from a boat and object to bringing a wet dog into the boat, you might follow the pattern set by a Tallahassee duck hunter. Scott Munroe, who does use a retriever and does object to the wet dog, decided to do something about it and created a dog platform and boarding ramp on his hunting boat.

Scott's boat was built for duck hunting on Lake Iamonia and Lake Jackson in Leon County. As these lakes are closed to the use of motors during duck season, the boat was designed for pole and paddle. The low silhouette makes the boat easy to hide in the vegetation of the shallow lakes. The large decks, both forward and aft provide a platform for the retriever and other necessary items such as decoys. The

RESULTS—GEORGIA-FLORIDA RETRIEVER FIELD TRIAL

OPEN ALL-AGE

1st Timmy	Labrador	Mrs. Joseph H. Thompson
2nd Lil Bit of Audlon	Labrador	Charles F. Elmes
3rd Cloud	Labrador	R. L. Ireland III

WORKING CLASS—Quail

1st Ben Tulloh Beaver	Labrador	Mrs. G. M. Humphrey
2nd Gillionville Hope	Labrador	L. S. Thompson
3rd Harpo	Springer	David S. Ingalls
JAM Greatford Pinch	Cocker	Mrs. Frances C. Griscom
JAM Stalker	Springer	R. L. Ireland III

WORKING CLASS—Dove

1st Sweet Georgia Brown	Labrador	Mrs. M. B. Wallace, Jr.
2nd Harpo	Springer	David S. Ingalls
3rd Foxspring Target	Labrador	Royal Firman III
JAM Greatford Pinch	Cocker	Mrs. Frances C. Griscom
JAM Ben Tulloch Pigeon	Labrador	Mrs. John W. Hanes

WORKING CLASS—Duck

1st Ben Tulloch Beaver	Labrador	Mrs. G. M. Humphrey
2nd Foxspring Target	Labrador	Royal Firman III
3rd Foshalee Doc	Labrador	Miss Kate Ireland
JAM Ben Tulloch Othello	Labrador	Mrs. John W. Hanes
JAM Timmy	Labrador	Mrs. Joseph H. Thompson

* JAM Judges Award of Merit

FIELD TRIAL RESULTS—WEIMARANER CLUB OF AMERICA-FLORIDA REGION

GRACEY AND ASSOC. SHOOTING PRESERVE, GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA, DECEMBER 7-8, 1963

JUDGES: Dr. John D. Williams, Auburn, Alabama—Bill Olsen, Cordele, Georgia

OPEN ALL-AGE

DOG	BREED	OWNER	HANDLER
1st Fieldacres Rebel	Shorthair	Carl Coverdale, Grave City, Ohio	Don Spreadbury
2nd Timberlane's Maggie	Shorthair	Leon Lane, Huntsville, Ala.	Phillip G. Morris
3rd Traveler von Hayport	Shorthair	Paul Pruitt, Chillicothe, Ohio	Don Spreadbury
4th Fieldacres Ringo	Shorthair	Paul Sweeney, Southfield, Mass.	Phillip G. Morris

OPEN DERBY

1st Moesgaard Dandy's Speckles	Shorthair	F. V. Oliver, Palatka, Fla.	Bill Lee
2nd Fieldacres Trigger	Shorthair	William Gordon, Meadville, Pa.	Phillip G. Morris
3rd Fieldacres Judd	Shorthair	Jack Gemmell, Copley, Ohio	Phillip G. Morris
4th Moesgaards Dandy's Tinka	Shorthair	Lewis L. Kline, Orlando, Fla.	Don Spreadbury

OPEN GUN DOG

1st Trena von Braustein	Weimaraner	Joe Siggia, Detroit, Mich.	Ralph Terrill
2nd Schmidts Countess Kristine	Weimaraner	Joe Albanese, Syracuse, N. Y.	Ralph Terrill
3rd McKee's Silver King	Weimaraner	Mike McKee, Cincinnati, Ohio	Ralph Terrill
4th Lane of Lancewood	Weimaraner	John Riggins, Atlantic Beach, Fla.	John Riggins

OPEN PUPPY

1st Oliver's Moesgaard Dixie	Shorthair	Vivian Oliver, Palatka, Fla.	Bill Lee
2nd Moesgaards Kurt "N" Kall	Shorthair	Robert Brandner, Allenwood, N. J.	Jim Riggins
3rd Moesgaards Dandy's Mark	Shorthair	Robert Culpepper, Altamonte Springs, Fla.	Don Spreadbury
4th Moesgaards Dandy's Max	Shorthair	Charles Adkins, Altamonte Springs, Fla.	Don Spreadbury

AMATEUR GUN DOG

1st Travler von Hayport	Shorthair	Paul L. Pruitt, Chillicothe, Ohio	Paul L. Pruitt
2nd De Joies Star	Shorthair	F. V. Oliver, Palatka, Fla.	F. V. Oliver
3rd Fieldacres Rebel	Shorthair	Carl Coverdale, Grave City, Ohio	Lewis L. Kline
4th Timberlane's Maggie	Shorthair	Leon Lane, Huntsville, Ala.	Myron W. Wheat

OPEN-LIMITED ALL-AGE

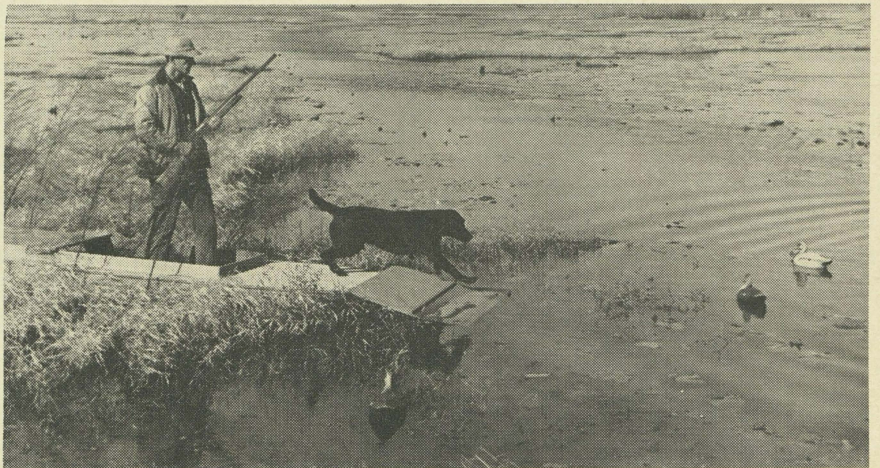
1st Fieldacres Ib	Shorthair	James A. Karnes, Akron, Ohio	Phillip G. Morris
2nd Moesgaards Ruffy	Shorthair	Lewis L. Kline, Orlando, Fla.	Don Spreadbury
3rd Moesgaards Lucky 11	Shorthair	Lewis L. Kline, Orlando, Fla.	Don Spreadbury
4th Trailborn Gab-Bee	Shorthair	Otto Harris, Grand Rapids, Mich.	Don Spreadbury



The boarding ramp of Munroe's boat is a sheet of plywood shaped to lie flat on the deck, shown at left, when not in use. Hinged at the bow, the ramp can be lowered for retrieving, or raised for travel. Once the decoys are in place, above, and the boat is in the blind, the boarding ramp can be lowered in a matter of seconds.

overall length of fourteen feet gives the necessary displacement for the narrow hull and a length of bamboo pole plus elbow grease provides the power.

The dog deck is covered with a rubber matting which affords good footing for the retriever even when wet. The ingenious boarding ramp folds flat onto the deck when not in use. While the whole affair may have the appearance of a Rube Goldberg contraption, its effectiveness is attested by these photographs. ●



A command of fetch sends the Labrador over the ramp and into the water in pursuit of a downed duck. The strips across the ramp provides a foothold for the returning dog.

Photos By Jim Floyd



No fuss, no muss, above, and no cold water as Duke returns the duck via the boarding ramp. With the duck in hand, right, a dry hunter shows appreciation. The retriever can drip-dry on the covered deck, awaiting the next command to fetch.



CONSERVATION "INDIANS"

(Continued from page 5)

interested only in taking all they can get for free, giving back nothing to conservation in time, effort, or money.

I remember back in 1936 when a backwoods sizzorbill set a fire one morning to get the job of putting it out, and by nightfall over twenty thousand acres of second growth jackpine had burned. It had to be patrolled for weeks. A small fortune was spent to control it, and a lot of shoe leather was burned.

I also well recall the many fall seasons I worked attempting to handle several thousand wild-eyed deer hunters in my country, and once of coming home long after dark to find my parlor full of hunters, with mud and tobacco ashes on the carpet and my wife in tears. Some wanted to buy deer. Another knew where there were two illegal deer in the woods and would drag them out if I would give him one. Another wanted to buy a bear. Another had lost his partner and expected me to start right out to find him. And lastly there was the citizen who deemed the game regulations all wrong and had stopped by to pass on his great wealth of knowledge.

All this for \$120 a month, \$65 for expenses and furnish my own car. Do field men get anti-social or just realistic? Some of the newly arisen Chiefs with the chamber of commerce complex should work the field for about ten years and come back with the answers on social responsibility.

It is time that we blow the foam off some of this effervescent planning and find out how much substance there is underneath, and who all these years has been doing the work and guarding the resources.

Wildlife officers and rangers

still have to fight for equipment and travel money, but there is always money for planning committees. Irresponsible juries still turn law violators loose, and some judges and district attorneys consider it smart politics to downgrade conservation laws. Fisheries biologists and other field men still report pollution violations, the illegal filling of lake shores, the destruction of spawning beds, and oftentimes receive only token backing from their head office or other constituted authority. Too often word comes back from the Capital not to "rock the boat," and not to wear righteous indignation as a chevron.

It takes a mighty ornery and rugged public servant to buck such a current. But many are doing it, and so they get themselves in trouble because of their convictions and because some local politician or group of business men don't want the sins of the community made public. "Going by the book" in the field sometimes gets the director of the department in hot water—possibly a director who wants to ride out his tenure with no big political "blow-up."

Well do I realize that there must be planning, but it must be realistic and for a purpose, and field men should be consulted, whatever their specialty. Their counsel should be sought, their evidence weighted, their ideas of practical application analyzed. Conservation is learned in the field, not by talking from a podium. Through experience judgment is developed.

The proof of the pudding is in the field—it always has been and it always will be. There is where the work is done. There is where success or failure is measured. There is where the sweat, heartaches and physical risks occur. There is where all conservation will ultimately be accomplished if there is going to be any conservation of natural resources. ●

FISHING

(Continued from page 7)

does not keep me from wishing they weren't there. I'm not mad; just sorry.

But let me tell you fishermen: Whenever through boat traffic increases on a river, your fishing will suffer.

LET'S GET THE REST of the boat business out of our system.

We should realize that fish are sometimes attracted by outboard motors; that sometimes they don't give a dang and sometimes an outboard motor scares hell out of them. These are facts not attributed to some vague isolated 1-day experiment. I personally have seen fish come to an outboard, ignore it and flee from it. I'm afraid my mind is closed on the subject.

I feel that the fisherman should get first choice on the water in most cases—not because he has any more right to his sport than the cruiser has but because his sport can be practiced only where the fish are. The cruiser can ply his recreation wherever the water is deep enough.

I HAVE HEARD of marshmallows being used as fish bait for several kinds of fish but I had a new insight into their use some time back when a fisherman explained he uses a sinker a few inches up the line from his hook. After putting on his bait, he then pushes on a piece of marshmallow. The reason? The marshmallow floats his bait, keeping it just the right distance off the bottom.

I TALKED TO AN inventor who has built a lot of fishing gadgets and lures. It seems he has rigged a "feathering" device which would make it possible to "slow" a cast in mid-air with a push-button reel. The inability of a fisherman to "feather" his cast has always been the glaring disadvantage of pushbutton reels.

Now this inventor says his

gadget works and isn't expensive to make and he's been approached by reel manufacturers—but nothing has come of it.

His explanation: Most fishermen don't care any more whether they can cast accurately or not and the manufacturers know it.

"I never thought it would sell in the first place," he said.

SOME YEARS BACK I had some little metal stencils cut with my name on them. By using a stiff paint brush and the right kind of paint, I have stuck my name on tackle boxes, oars, gas cans and almost anything else within reach. It makes a neat job and saves loss if you fish in a lot of different boats in different places.

ONCE IN A WHILE when fishing shorelines, especially when casting to pockets along the bank, you'll find small minnows showering away from your lure as you retrieve it.

Just what this means I'm not sure except that it indicates there are some small minnows along there. However, here are some quotes I've heard from various anglers, each of whom draws a different conclusion from the phenomenon.

1. "There are some good fish back in there or those minnows wouldn't be so spooky!"

2. "Nothing back in there or you wouldn't see that bait hanging around!"

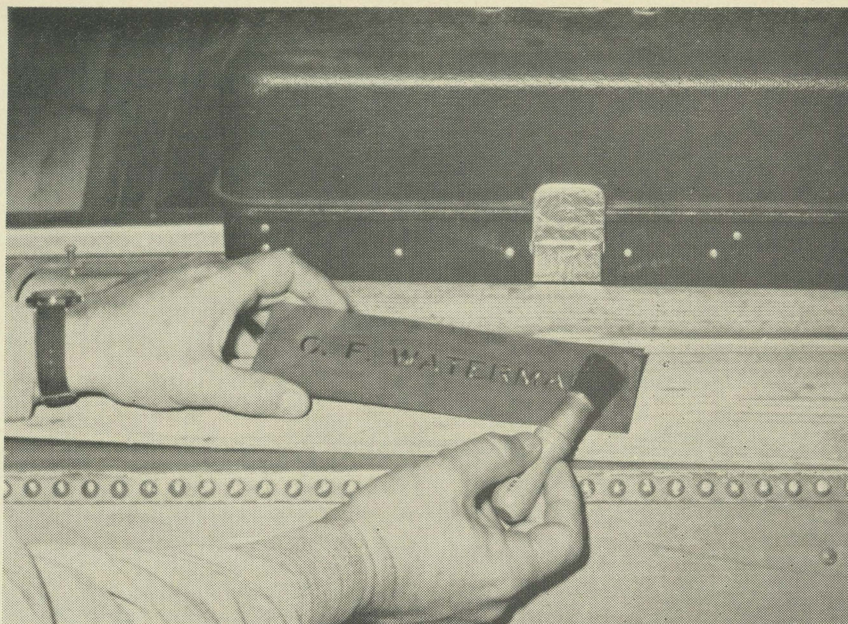
3. "That's where the fish are. You'll always find them in an area where small bait is working."

4. "Scaring minnows stirs up the bass."

5. "When the bait spooks it scares the fish."

Well, anyway——.

RECOMMENDED WAYS of keeping ferrules from sticking include the application of candlewax, the use of a small quantity of very light oil and rubbing the male ferrule against your nose to collect a little skin grease. One of the best



Using a metal stencil and stiff brush is an excellent way of marking fishing and boating equipment, and can prevent loss, especially around busy docks.

This stencil is being applied to an oar blade.

antidotes for sticking ferrules is some stuff called "Zipper-ease," intended for the lubrication of zippers. When I had hair I used to rub my ferrules in it to oil them slightly.

I know about all of these things but I have just as many stuck ferrules as anybody. One difficulty that may be aggravated by the use of lubricant is the formation of suction in a nearly airtight ferrule.

Most old-timers take ferrules apart with a twisting motion, taking care not to damage guides.

Two fishermen can satisfactorily gang up on a stuck ferrule if each will place one hand on either side of the joint. A tug-of-war type of pulling with one puller on each side of the ferrule doesn't work so well. Generally you learn who weighs the most but the ferrule stays put.

Application of heat to the joint sometimes loosens a tight one, expanding the outer or female ferrule. I have simultaneously applied an ice cube to the inner ferrule but I don't know if it helped.

In desperation, I have loosened ferrules by twisting with pliers, ending up with scarred metal.

When the culprit was corrosion, I have poured penetrating oils or "Liquid Wrench" into the joint and sometimes it helps.

LIKE SOME OTHER fly fishermen I have always felt that the only "real" fly fishing was with a floating line. Of course that's the easiest kind to cast because you pick it off the water and pitch again without a lot false casting.

However, some of the manufacturers have been building fast sinking lines intended for putting streamers down near the bottom where it isn't too deep.

I've used sinking lines only a little. Of course, being small in wind resistance for their weight they are good for distance casting, even though you have to retrieve a large percentage of your line before "picking up" from the water.

I have long felt that sinking fly lines would compete with spinning jigs in salt water when fish are staying deep but haven't given them a fair trial. I have acquired some Scientific Anglers sinking lines and am going to give them some serious use. I'll let you know how I come out. ●

CONSERVATION SCENE

(Continued from page 4)

with the District's expanding system of canals, levees and other primary water control works.

In unanimous action the tri-county committee endorsed two resolutions to be sent to the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission—one to be a request from the Committee; the other a request from the Martin County Commission—Asking the Game Commission to build boat ramps in two locations:

(1) At Phipps Park under the Florida Turnpike, providing boat access to the St. Lucie Canal nearby.

(2) At Charlie Leighton Park, at Palm City, located on S. R. 714 at the Palm City Bridge, also providing boat access to the St. Lucie Canal.

Lou Gainey of West Palm Beach, regional director of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, said he has recommended new boat ramps at 24 locations. He said he will do everything possible to expedite the requests.

Frank Wacha, chairman of the Martin County Commission and a member of the tri-county recreation committee, advised that the property owners of the two locations above have agreed to the installation of boat ramps; that all questions including public access have been resolved, and all that remains is for someone to build the new ramps.

A third future public recreation area, on the north side of the St. Lucie Canal, at the junction of the Canal and Lake Okeechobee, was unanimously recommended by the committee. All members approved a resolution to the Flood Control District asking the District (in planning the new levee along the northeast shore of the Lake with the Army Corps of Engineers) to provide for as large a public park

as possible—at least 30 to 50 acres in size—lakeward of the alignment of the new levee.

Land Acquisition

ACQUIRING AND developing more community recreation areas—places where urban dwellers can fish, hunt, camp and just stroll in the woods—will be undertaken by 50,000 members of the Izaak Walton League in five hundred communities throughout the nation. The program is designed to provide recreational areas close to residential and industrial centers so time, money and effort to travel to and from these areas will be minimized.

"The federal government is taking firm action to acquire and develop large tracts of land for recreational use to compensate for industrialization of large areas and increasing population pressure," declared Burt Brickner, of Tiffin, Ohio, president of the League. "Our objective is to supplement these large areas with smaller ones closer to home so outdoor recreation will not eventually become a huge travel problem. Recreation areas of all types should be close at hand in all population areas so recreation can be enjoyed frequently by any member of the family not just as an annual two-week family planned undertaking.

"Present planning—or lack of planning—is resulting in vast rec-

reation centers such as national parks and forest areas to offset the large industrial centers that are developing," Mr. Brickner said. "But this isn't enough. We want to keep some open space right inside residential and industrial areas so that facilities for living, working and playing will be side-by-side. To accomplish this, land must be acquired now and held for recreational development while industry expands around these places."

League chapters will work with state, county and municipal agencies and with other citizen groups in the community in surveying local recreation needs, locating the areas and providing for their acquisition.

Trumpeter Swan Returns

THE TRUMPETER SWAN, largest waterfowl on the North American continent and once thought extinct, has staged a dramatic comeback, the department of the Interior said in announcing that more than 300 young (cygnets) were reared in the United States in 1963—the largest number counted since census taking began in 1932.

The number of cygnets counted this year exceeds the total known population, adult and cygnets, as recently as 1945, when the adults and young counted were 235. Because of the population boom, the United States, south of Alaska, now has more than 800 trumpeter swans, young and adult. Of this total, 79 are in zoos of this country. Alaska may have several hundred wild trumpeters, but accurate census-taking there has been difficult because of its large area.

Shooting of trumpeter swans is prohibited in the United States and Canada.

Each year, since 1932, trumpeter swans are counted in the Red Rock Lakes-Yellowstone region, which reaches into the States of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming. In 1963, biologists of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service counted 384 adults

Smokey Says:



Be sure your smokes and campfires are out—dead out!

and 203 cygnets in an aerial census of all known nesting lakes and marshes in this tri-State area. In 1932, Government biologists searching for the rare birds, were elated to find 57 adults and 12 young birds in these mountain lakes.

New Duck Stamp Design

A WATERCOLOR DRAWING showing a pair of Nene geese on the volcanic slopes of Hawaii will be the design for the 1964-65 Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp.

Stanley Stearns of Stevensville, Maryland, drew the winning design which was selected today from among 158 entries. Stearns also drew the design for the 1955-56 stamp. A total of 87 artists entered this 15th annual Federal "Duck Stamp" contest which is conducted in Washington, D. C., by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

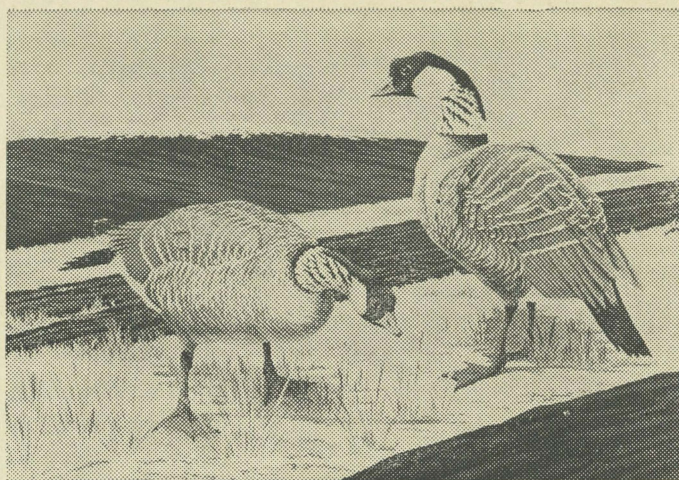
Second and third places in the contest went to Leslie C. Kouba of Minneapolis, Minnesota. His two drawings featured old squaw ducks and emperor geese.

The Nene goose (pronounced "nay-nay"), one of the rarest species of waterfowl in the world, is seriously threatened with extinction. The birds are native only to the Hawaiian Islands and in 1956 became Hawaii's official bird. The Nene is a protected species and though it will appear on the duck stamp, it may nowhere be hunted. A specialized cousin of the Canada goose, the Nene in the wild lives only at an elevation of between 5,000 and 8,000 feet. It has been away from the water so long that its feet are only partly webbed.

This year artists were urged to submit designs showing various species of waterfowl that have not appeared on the 30 previous issues of stamp.

Contest entries this year came from 32 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada. Pennsylvania led with 9 artists submitting 17 entries. Virginia was second with 15 and Minnesota third with 13.

HAWAII'S NENE GEESE FEATURED ON 1964-65 DUCK STAMP



A new \$3 duck stamp is issued each year by the Post Office Department. The 1964-65 stamp will go on sale July 1, 1964, and expires June 30, 1965. Each migratory waterfowl hunter 16 years or older is required to purchase a stamp, in addition to a regular State hunting license.

Trees Make News

NEARLY ALL COMMERCIAL timberlands owned by forest products companies in the United States are open to the public for hunting, fishing and other types of recreation.

But only about one person out of four knows it.

Industry forestry leaders say a factor in the public's lack of knowledge stems from existing liability laws. Companies are reticent to erect "welcome" signs and otherwise advertise the availability of their lands for recreation when they may be held legally liable for accidents, damages and injuries. Improved laws have been passed by some states in recent years, and the whole liability matter is being appraised with the view of creating a better understanding of legal ramifications involved.

Recreational opportunities on timberlands owned by lumber, pulp-paper and other forest products companies have been widely chronicled in recent years, though mostly in broad terms with little emphasis on the specific company.

But a nationwide public opinion survey made recently by Opinion Research Corporation, Princeton, N. J. indicates the message has not been getting through.

The question, "Is it your impression that most lumber and paper companies let the public use their forest land for hunting, fishing, and recreation, or not?" brought these replies:

- 28% said "yes, most do"
- 32% said "no, they don't"
- 11% said "some do, some don't"
- 29% said "they don't know"

American Forest Products Industries, Inc., national sponsor of Tree Farms, in 1960 surveyed 518 forest product companies which own or control 58,140,000 acres of commercial timberlands. The area surveyed is 86.2 percent of the commercial timberland owned by forest product companies in the country. Among other things, the survey revealed 92 percent of the land area open to hunting, 97 percent open to fishing.

Multiple use of commercial timberlands is inherent in the industry-sponsored American Tree Farm System of growing trees as a crop on private lands. Multiple use as a principle of forest management recognizes the ability of the land to grow trees for products as well as provide recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, watershed control and soil conservation.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from preceding page)

Most people, according to the Opinion Research Corporation survey, feel there is enough forest land available for outdoor recreation purposes in this country, as evidenced by this response:

52% said "yes, enough"

29% said "no, not enough"

19% said "don't know"

For further information about the recreational opportunities on forest industry lands write:

American Forest Products
Industries, Inc.
1816 N Street, N.W.
Washington 6, D.C.

Conservation Library

The Conservation Library Center, established by the Denver Library Commission slightly more

than two years ago, already has accumulated a tremendous number of materials concerning conservation history, policies, practices, and programs, the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

More than 50 conservation leaders have endorsed the library center, and collections of photographs, manuscripts, diaries, correspondence, books and other materials dealing with the origin and establishment of national forests, national parks, soil conservation, wildlife protection and management, and related resources subjects have been contributed to the center. More materials have been pledged by many of the nation's contemporary conservation "greats." In this new center, conservationists of tomorrow will be able to review the history of natural resources development and protection, thereby

enriching and broadening their understanding of the events and circumstances that have shaped the course of conservation.

Two of the Conservation Library Center's foremost needs are a continued flow of personal and public conservation documents and adequate funding to enable its small staff to catalog, arrange, and display the materials for use by scholars. The Center's budgetary needs are not large; but they are continuing. Much of the funds are being supplied by the City and County of Denver and by a small number of interested individuals and organizations. More support is needed.

Information about the Conservation Library Center, its status and program, may be obtained from Arthur H. Carhart, Consultant, at 1357 Broadway, Denver, Colorado. ●

TAGGED FISH DERBY

(Continued from page 5)

and each number has a corresponding cash value, assigned in an impartial drawing before the opening of the derby. The individual tag values are \$25, \$50, \$100, \$1,000, or \$10,000. One \$10,000 fish is released in each of the four zones.

When a tagged fish is caught during the derby period, the angler must bring it to a Schlitz wholesaler with tag intact. The wholesaler will learn the tag value of the fish from Schlitz Milwaukee headquarters and will see that pertinent information on the tagged fish is given to the proper fish authorities for their studies on fish growth, migration, habitat and other factors vital to improving fishing as a sport and industry.

Florida state officials concerned with fishing and conservation have called the program is a significant contribution to the advancement of fish culture and development of Florida recreation.

John W. Woods, Chief, Fisheries Division, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, said the derby has been the means of assembling data to help give the state some of the finest fishing opportunities in the nation.

"Specifically," he added, "it has aided us in properly evaluating other research results. It has added new information in fish management and in the introduction of experimental species, such as Tilapia, a perch imported from Africa.

"In short, the derby helps us provide more and better fishing in Florida."

Robert M. Ingle, Director of Research of the Florida State Board of Conservation, dealing with salt water fishing, said the program enabled his agency to develop fishing at "near" offshore reefs, accessible to small boats, to learn more about migratory fish habits, and to improve catches from bridges and piers. The schedule for the 1964 Schlitz fishing derby will be:

Zone 1—Southwest Florida—February 1 through May 31.

Fresh water tags carry prefix K and tag number. Salt water tags carry prefix number 41 and tag number.

Zone 2—Southeast Florida—February 1 through May 31. Fresh water tags carry Prefix M and tag number. Salt water tags carry prefix number 42 and tag number.

Zone 3—Central Florida—April 1 through July 31. Fresh water tags carry prefix N and tag number. Salt water tags carry prefix number 43 and tag number.

Zone 4—Northern Florida—May 1 through August 31. Fresh water tags carry prefix O and tag number. Salt water tags carry prefix number 44 and tag number.

Note: All tags will also bear the word "Schlitz" so they will be readily identifiable. ●

BOBWHITE QUAIL

(Continued from page 15)

Ever see unhappy quail?

But take the same range and place it down over a patch-type farm area—small parcels with a variety of vegetation—and the quail will be happy, at least as “happy” as a quail can be. They’ll have small fields to feed in, warm grass to nest in, and protective hedgerows and secure thickets to escape into.

According to the late Aldo Leopold, game management specialist, if one could take a square mile, divide it exactly into quarters, then create in each quarter a woodland, a brushland, a grassland, and a cultivated area, a biologists could point to the center where these varieties touched and say, “this is where your covey will be.” A short range animal such as the quail needs everything within its grasp. That is

why mixtures of habitats in small areas are excellent quail land.

Among the natural foods a quail is attracted to are acorns, peanuts, corn, beggarweeds, wax myrtle, milk peas, and slough grass, to name only a few. Certain plantings on farms can entice quail, too. Through the Agricultural Conservation program, an eligible landowner can establish these plantings on a cost-share basis. These can be put along unprofitable farm edges, or in solid blocks or rows. It takes ¼-acre food plot per 20 acres to be of maximum benefit. Some of the plants listed under this cooperative plan are the bush lespedeza, partridge pea, common lespedeza, beggarweed, reseeding cowpeas, and browntop millet.

Full information about this cost-share payment for wildlife conservation practices can be obtained from your local County Agricultural Stabilization and

Conservation Service, your County Soil Conservation Technician, or the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Groves, improved pastures, planted pine forests, clean farming, subdivisions, and generally diminishing ranges, through a quail’s eyes, are all a misuse of the land. In the face of these ever-increasing encroachments, much of the land left will have to serve double duty.

The game biologists realize that a joint sportsman-landowner endeavor can be the only answer if quail hunting is to have a bright future. Sportsmen will someday have to face the fact that quail are a product of a landowner’s efforts and like strawberries and tomatoes should be considered as a crop—with proper reimbursement to the farmer.

It’s something to think about.

The day may not be too far away. ●

MUZZLE FLASHES

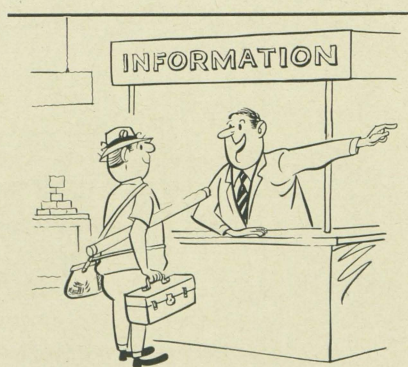
(Continued from page 9)

The National Rifle Association states the present situation bluntly. “Anti-gun legislation *can* take away your guns. It *can* destroy your enjoyment in the sporting use of guns. Congress, your state legislature or your local law-making body *can* sharply restrict ownership and use of guns by illogical requirements of registration, license fees, special police permits, etc., making compliance such a nuisance that your incentive to possess and use guns for sport is seriously dampened or killed.”

The NRA then goes on to urge gun lovers to examine and challenge proposed gun laws in light of practical enforcement, possible misuse by power-seeking persons, whether the proposed legislation is really necessary if public education and training can accomplish the same purpose.

Besides making the Communists happy, any enacted gun registration law would result in the

biggest paper headache imaginable. For reasons intentional or otherwise, *all* existing guns could not possibly be registered by serial number, description and owner. There are, for example, too many old “family guns” that have long been stored and forgotten, besides guns already in the hands of criminals who would not register them any way! Human nature being what it is, there would be many errors made in creating and maintaining records. The latter, especially, could be expected to be lax on many official levels. The net result



“... and about a mile up Big Creek you’ll come to this large pool . . .”

would be chaos, as guns changed hands legally or illegally without records reflecting such transfers.

Another step in the right direction is the activation of a National Shooting Sports Federation, to encourage establishment of localized shooting facilities and more widespread firearms education. This organization, along with the National Rifle Association, will probably make the greatest organized effort to legally keep the spirit and intent of our Second Amendment.

But the most effective defense of our right to own guns will be the raising of our own individual voices—to our local newspaper editors and TV commentators, to elected representatives at state and national levels, to county and city governments, local clubs and fellow shooters. By standing up and making ourselves heard, we can keep the guns we love to use for target shooting and hunting, and have them available for defense, if needed.

It is a serious situation. Prompt action is imperative. ●

DIG THEIR GRAVES

(Continued from page 25)

tions with their slaves, and King Cotton commenced his reign. With this surge of humanity, the natural system became altered, and long before the Civil War white-tails began losing ground to white seas of cotton. The Cherokee's March of Tears marked the Indians last days in the South, deer were being ruthlessly slaughtered, and the big cats started fading from the picture. By the time of the Gay Nineties, wild deer essentially had been eradicated, which in turn meant starvation for their major predators. The big game balance in the Land of Cotton thereby was destroyed, and at the turn of the century an "ecological desert" essentially had been created. It was from this period of waste and desolation that birth was given to our present day deer problems.

As the years rolled by and the economy of the South struggled through the early part of this century, a new outlook evolved where all aspects of conservation were concerned. The descendants of those who had destroyed began to rebuild. And with this process of healing both scarred earth and human consciences, white-tailed deer became destined to return.

And how they came back! They poured out of the mountains of North Carolina; they surged from the Everglades of Florida; they boiled out of the steaming swamps of Louisiana; they moved from the Coastal Islands of Georgia, and they even were transported hundreds of miles from Wisconsin and Texas. This magnanimous deer restoration program was a direct consequence of the New South's determination to regain the glory and splendor which Nature had once so generously bestowed. A gallant animal therefore was snatched from the brink of extinction, to be re-established in

proportions previously unheard of even by the vanished race that once had occupied these lands of opportunity.

But there was a great difference. Instead of the hardships with which deer of yesterday knew so well, their descendants found themselves in a land of plenty. Big timbers had been cut, which afforded sunlight for growth of unlimited browse plants, the cougar was dead, and man himself was beginning an about-face from his earlier course of destruction. So for a span of time, white-tails no longer were confronted with a food shortage, and no longer did they live in anxiety.

Thus, all natural controls had been extinguished, and wild deer were encouraged to multiply and extend their kind until the early 1930's. Then they came—with drought stricken cattle imported from the West, the dreaded screw-worm was introduced. Within only a short period, these flesh-eating vermin swarmed over large tracts of the southeastern United States. Another natural control thereby had been introduced, and untold numbers of animals subsequently succumbed. These hideous maggots gnawed into the bowels of does at the time of birth, they bored into the bellies of unbelievable numbers of fawns, and each summer at the

time antlers were developing, they ate away the brains of countless thousands of bucks.

For the next 25 years, glistening white maggots held sway as a paramount controlling factor for white-tails over much of the Southeast. But the days of screw-worms were numbered, and through miraculous accomplishments of the United States Department of Agriculture, in 1958 these parasites essentially vanished from Dixie. So once again, the "lid is off," and white-tail populations are expanding at an unprecedented rate.

What does tomorrow hold for these noble animals—and how again will mankind crucify their kind? It is not a pleasant thought, as starvation, pitiful stunting, inconceivable numbers of worms, disease, and death do not paint a pretty picture. But it all is so true—it has happened before, it is happening now, and wherever deer are "on the top of the range," their ultimate fate is worse than death itself.

It's now up to you, Mr. Sportsman, as the big predators have gone, commercial hunting is a dying enterprise, and even the screwworm has capitulated to the advances of science. Your concepts of deer harvests must advance accordingly, for now you have to assume a role of the only controlling factor which is so essential for keeping deer healthy and alive.

So abandon the once useful, but now outdated Buck Law. Oil up that gun, and just remember that wherever deer are too plentiful, for each buck killed by a hunter, a doe should be taken. This is the way they were born, and the way Nature decrees they should die.

Remember too, over-hunting can be corrected by the next fawn crop, but over-browsing is permanent. Don't dig their graves, Mr. Sportsman, with spades of antiquated sentimentalism. ●



"They don't lie the way they used to!"

FOR THAT
BIG ONE
THAT
DIDN'T
GET AWAY



FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S FISHING CITATION

is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing recorded date of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

Only fishing citation applications received within
90 days from date of catch will be honored.

APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE Date _____
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data listed below:

Name (please print) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Species _____ Weight _____ Length _____

Type of Tackle _____

Bait or Lure Used _____

Where Caught _____ in _____ County

Date Caught _____ Catch Witnessed By _____

Registered, Weighed By _____ At _____

(Signature of Applicant)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS

.....8 pounds or larger

CHAIN PICKEREL

.....4 pounds or larger

BLUEGILL (BREAM)

.....1 1/2 pounds or larger

SHELLCRACKER

.....2 pounds or larger

BLACK CRAPPIE

.....2 pounds or larger

RED BREAST

.....1 pound or larger

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fishing tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK



DISCOVERY of the vast sawgrass and hammock flatlands of the mysterious Florida Everglades, via a skimming airboat, opens new panoramic vistas for vacationers with an urge to explore this unique wilderness.—F.S.N.B. Photo

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